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President Weizman signs the Jordanian peace treaty yesterday as FM Peres watches. (Stein/Harari)



PLO head Yasser Arafat and PM Yitzhak Rabin speak to reporters after yesterday's meeting at the Erez checkpoint. (Ahn Ron/Israel Sun)

Hussein to make 1st visit after tomorrow's border ceremony

KING HUSSEIN will make his first public visit to Israel for tomorrow's ceremony marking the opening of the northern border crossing at the Jordan River Bridge in the Beit She'an Valley.

Yesterday, President Ezer Weizman added his signature to the peace treaty, at a Beit Hanassi ceremony attended by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other senior Foreign Ministry officials.

His signature was affixed to the treaty on the advice of Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who said that any international agreement passed by the Knesset required the president's signature. This procedure was followed with the peace agreement with Egypt.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar and his Jordanian counterpart, Samir Kassar, will open the northern border crossing in the presence of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and some 2,000 invited guests.

Following the ceremony, the king is expected to visit Beit Gavriel, the Lake Kinneret facility where talks were held between Jordanian and Israeli negotiators. He might also visit Tiberias, sources said. Rabin is expected to accompany him during his visit to the Kinneret.

HAIM SHAPIRO and Tim

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According to Transport Ministry spokesman Eli Danon, the ribbon cutting by the two ministers is to take place in the middle of the bridge, which the Jordanians call the Sheikh Hussein Bridge, but the rest of the ceremony is to be on the Israeli side of the river.

Transport Ministry Director-General Doron Shorer said that hundreds of children from the Beit She'an Valley kibbutzim and from Jordan will release doves over the bridge. There will also be a civilian aircraft salute, he said.

Rabin and Hussein are then to travel by helicopter to Beit Gavriel. They are expected to land about half a kilometer away from

the facility and walk to it along a route that will be lined with hundreds of children.

The Airports Authority, which is also responsible for the country's land crossings, is rushing to complete the work on the border post. The crossing will not only accommodate travelers, but the transport of goods between Irbid and Haifa port.

In Lisbon, Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and his Jordanian counterpart, Mohammed Adwan, addressed a conference of American travel agents and presented a joint marketing plan.

They also presented the plan to travel writers at a joint news conference. Adwan said that since the treaty was signed, inquiries by travel agents about Jordan were up 37 percent, and plans for constructing new hotels in Amman, Petra, and Akaba are being accelerated.

Baram said the two countries would soon launch a \$10 million marketing campaign in the US.

Talks to begin on further self-rule for Palestinians

Sarid: Gaza-Jericho is over, new phase is critical

DAVID MAKOVSKY

NEGOTIATIONS with the Palestinians on expanding self-rule to the rest of the territories will begin in two weeks, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed yesterday.

But Palestinian elections would not take place until next year, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said. He refused to say whether they would occur during the first half of next year.

Sarid said the Gaza-Jericho phase "is over" and the sides were "entering a new phase that is critical."

In a joint press conference following their meeting at the Erez checkpoint, Rabin also announced a series of other moves that Israeli officials said are designed, in no small measure, to bolster Arafat's position among his own people.

The measures include handing over administrative powers in the rest of the territories in tourism and welfare by Monday, and health and taxation by the end of the month; increasing the number of Palestinian workers allowed to enter Israel; and a freer flow of Palestinian goods. Israel transferred control of education to the Palestinians in September.

Rabin insisted the delay in fully implementing early empowerment

was caused by a lack of funding from donor states abroad.

Almost the entire 95-minute meeting was held between Rabin and Arafat, with each only having two top officials in attendance. This more intimate structure enabled Rabin to press Arafat to get tough with terrorists.

When asked if Rabin explicitly linked progress on the peace talks with Arafat's success in halting terror attacks, a senior Israeli official said, "We did not talk the language of conditionality. Each side knew what the other was talking about. I don't think Arafat has a problem of understanding."

When asked in public about terror, Rabin would only say, "Each side expects the other to adhere to commitments already undertaken."

With Rabin were Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid. Arafat was joined by chief Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath and Yasser Abed-Rabbo. A wider forum, including top IDF officials and other Palestinians, met for only 20 minutes, after the smaller session was over.

The key announcement was Rabin's willingness to engage in across-the-board negotiations with Arafat on expanding self-rule outside of Gaza and Jericho.

Sarid contrasted the substantive tone of this meeting with some of the heated sessions that have characterized the previous eight encounters between the two. "There is a strategic decision to move ahead," he said.

"In two weeks," Rabin told the press conference, "we'll enter negotiations on the complex of the next phase: elections, pre-redemption, security arrangements for settlements, external security, transfer of authority, legal reviews, and other issues that are needed to reach an agreement."

"We are committed to the Declaration of Principles and the Cairo agreement. We have no intention of changing our commitment. The discussions will be comprehensive, on all the issues that need to be solved to move to the next stage," he said.

To streamline those complex negotiations, Rabin and Arafat agreed that only a few key people would attend the meetings, instead of setting up four different subcommittees immediately. Officials said such panels may be set up along the way, but the idea would be for just a few officials to deal with all issues relating to self-rule.

Senior officials said those on the Israeli side will be Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothschild, IDF coordina-

tor of activities in the territories, as chief negotiator; IDF planning head Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir, and Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer.

Rabin refused to set a timetable for progress. "I cannot assess how many months these negotiations will take... We, on our side, will do it in the most forthcoming spirit. But we will stress our vital interests, just as the Palestinians will stress their vital interests."

Rabin announced he will let 10,000 more Palestinian workers into Israel, easing the closure imposed after last month's Tel Aviv bus bombing. He said the workers would be employed in construction and agriculture. Some 13,000 Palestinians are presently allowed to work in Israel, but 37,000 others who depend on Israeli jobs for their livelihood will remain barred.

Rabin also promised to allow freedom of movement to Gaza merchants who have permits to cross into Israel. He also pledged that, in keeping with a prior commitment, the Rafiah terminal will be able to process people and goods as "soon as possible."

At the press conference, Arafat thanked Rabin for a "positive and fruitful meeting." Israel and the Palestinians need to overcome "all these obstacles which some

(Continued on Page 2)

Sa'adon family to meet Yassin

ALON PINKAS

THE family of IDF soldier Ilan Sa'adon, kidnapped and murdered by Hamas in 1988, will be allowed to meet with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the jailed and ailing Hamas spiritual leader who in the past has indicated he can contact people who know where Sa'adon's body is.

The family, which contacted the Hamas independently in the past, met yesterday with Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin, who authorized their meeting with Yassin, jailed since 1990.

"I'm happier today and encouraged," said Jilbert Sa'adon, Ilan's mother. "So much time has past, and we still don't know where he is. I hope that now we can find out."

Hamas admitted killing Sa'adon

but refused to return the body or reveal its whereabouts.

The family's lawyer, Amir Avrahami, accompanied the family to the meeting and later said that independent efforts to find the body will continue, regardless of the authorities' efforts. Avrahami has already met with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other PLO leaders, as well as Hamas contact people.

Palestinians confirm cholera outbreak in Gaza

JUDY SIEGEL and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Health Ministry yesterday halted the import of "any type of food" from Gaza to Israel until further notice, due to six confirmed and 14 suspected cases of cholera. On Monday night, a Gaza boy, 2½, died five hours after his symptoms appeared, apparently as a result of the infectious disease.

Palestinian Health Minister Dr. Riyad Za'aron confirmed at a press conference last night that 15 cases of cholera had been diagnosed in Gaza. Earlier in the day he had maintained that there is no certainty that cholera was the cause of the sickness.

He said his ministry is in contact with both Israel and UNICEF because "according to the peace agreement with Israel, we and they are committed to coordination and cooperation concerning infectious diseases."

The cases are all from Gaza City and the Shajaiya area. In Shifa Hospital, doctors said that the infection, whether cholera or something else, may have come from eating food infected by sewage water.

The food ban includes fruit, vegetables, oth-

er agricultural products, fish, and seafood. The ministry said it had boosted its supervision in cooperation with the Agriculture Ministry, but nevertheless regards the risk of transmission of cholera to Israel as "low." It did not explain why it waited a week to publicize the outbreak.

On Monday night, the health authorities managed to abort an attempt by Gazans to smuggle 180 kilos of meat into Israel. Twenty-eight crates were destroyed yesterday after inspectors found them in an Israeli vehicle. One hundred kilos of cheese smuggled in via the Allenby Bridge from Jordan and 80 kilos of unmarked cheese brought in from Judea and Samaria were also destroyed.

Water samples inside Israel were found to be safe, the ministry said. Chlorination of water inside Gaza was boosted yesterday. Flooding due to recent storms is suspected of causing sewage to overflow into water sources in Gaza.

The ministry reminds the public not to buy produce from an unknown source, and to wash

all fruit and vegetables from any source with soap and water.

The Agriculture Control Committee has increased its efforts to prevent smuggling of fresh produce from Gaza.

It has placed additional inspectors at border checkpoints and along the Gaza Strip. The inspectors are instructed to inspect all vehicles from Gaza and not to allow the entry of fruit, vegetables, meat, and eggs. The inspectors have also been instructed to impound and destroy all fruit and vegetables.

Authority director-general Danny Ater reported a large consignment of eggs was scheduled to arrive from Gaza yesterday. Ater said the eggs were returned, since the importers received an entry permit before the ban.

Mohammed Rayis, deputy director of Gaza's Agriculture Ministry, argued that Israel is punishing all Gaza farmers, instead of testing produce for signs of the disease.

"Now our farmers have nowhere to sell their produce," he said.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Many organ donors stipulate: No Orthodox Jews

JUDY SIEGEL

MORE and more potential organ donors are insisting they don't want their organs to go to religious Jews, an official of the ADI organ-donor registration center said yesterday.

"The number of people stipulating that their organs not go to Orthodox Jews has surpassed the number of Jews who write that they don't want their organs to go to Arabs," said Ruti Weiss-Zucker, ADI's coordinator.

She stressed that in all such cases, the registration cards are returned to their sender. "We don't accept any strings attached, except a statement that only certain organs may be removed if needed to save a life, rather than all of them," Weiss-Zucker said.

Potential donors can, of course, tell their relatives to make sure other conditions are met, such as insisting their own doctor be present when brain death is determined.

The Health Ministry's NIS 300,000 media campaign to promote willingness to donate organs has paid off, she added. The

month-long campaign, due to end in a few days, has produced 500 new registrants a week - the same number would previously register in a whole month.

Weiss-Zucker said that registration has come from all sectors, including Arabs, haredim, and modern Orthodox Jews. She said, however, that once the campaign ends, the number of new registrants will likely go down.

ADI was named for Ahud Ben-Dror, a Petah Tikva teenager who died in 1978 when a kidney for transplant could not be found in time to save his life. His parents established the registration center

with approval from the health authorities. It has registered tens of thousands residents willing to donate organs to save lives.

But there is still a need for many more potential donors. Weiss-Zucker noted, as most of those registered are alive and well. "We believe that signing an ADI card is a good-luck charm for a long, healthy life," she said, half seriously.

Meanwhile, a 41-year-old father of two from the North underwent a heart transplant at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem yesterday: a 49-year-old father of five received a liver from the same donor, who died in an accident.

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SPECIAL EVENTS AT BGU

November 9, 1994 - 9:15 a.m. - Dedication of the
Miriam and Ed Vickar Information Center

at the Jacob Blaustein Institute for
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donated by Marlon (Miriam) and Ed Vickar, Winnipeg
Midreshet Ben-Gurion, BGU Sede Boker Campus -
together with the Keren Kayemet - Jewish National Fund

2:30 p.m. - Cornerstone laying of the
W. A. Minkoff Senate Court and Senate Hall
of the University's Senate and Administration Building,
donated by the family of the late W. A. Minkoff, Geneva
BGU Campus, Beer-Sheva

4:00 p.m. - Conferment of doctoral degrees upon University
graduates and the conferment of honorary doctoral degrees upon
Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel and Minister of Defense,
and **Edgar Daniel de Picciotto**, Geneva

Joya Claire Sonnenfeldt Auditorium, BGU Campus, Beer-Sheva
November 10, 1994 - 1:00 p.m. - Cornerstone laying of a
Building in the Medical School Complex,
Faculty of Health Sciences, donated by the
Flamme Foundation, Geneva, BGU Campus, Beer-Sheva
BEN-GURION DAY, 1994

For further details please contact the Department of Public Affairs,
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Senior intelligence officer: Assad doesn't keep his word

DAN IZENBERG

CONTRARY to the myth, Syrian President Hafez Assad does not honor the agreements he signs, a senior intelligence officer reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

One parliamentary source quoted the officer as saying: "The description of Assad as a man who keeps his agreements is a myth. It has no basis in reality. It is not a good idea to rely on the fact that Assad is a man of honor and one who keeps his word. That is a worthless myth."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flatly rejected the officer's assessment in comments to reporters yesterday. After the Yom Kippur War, Rabin told him, Israel and Syria reached an agreement which has not been violated for over 20 years.

Rabin also emphasized that terror operations against Israel were not being launched from the Syrian border.

MKs who attended the meeting said the officer was asked to comment on charges by an official in the entourage of Turkish Prime Minister Tancu Ciller that Assad had violated 18 agreements signed between the countries.

The officer said that Assad would not yield on his demand for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and that violence from Lebanon would continue as long as the Israel and Syria did not sign a treaty.

With regard to the Palestinians, he said that agents of Jibril Rajoub, head of the secret service in the

autonomy, were using force to prevent the Jordanian Wakf from functioning on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

He said the Palestinian Authority is not holding a single Hamas activist in jail today. All of those rounded up after the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsmann and the Tel Aviv bus bombing have been released. The officer repeated a statement made last week by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that Jordan was doing nothing to prevent Hamas from operating out of Amman.

Israel Radio added that the officer described Arafat as all-powerful in Gaza and Jericho but said he portrayed himself as vulnerable in order to gain additional benefits. He also said that many of Arafat's aides were corrupt and anti-democratic.

Palestinians said setting up police force in Judea, Samaria

BILL HUTMAN and ALON PINKAS

THE Palestinians are setting up their own police force in Judea and Samaria, a senior police officer publicly admitted that for the first time yesterday.

Cmdr. Alec Ron, head of the new Judea and Samaria Police District, said the force is "filling the vacuum" created in recent years by the resignation of the policemen who served in Palestinian communities in the areas.

He said that a full-fledged Palestinian police force had yet to be set up outside of Jericho and Gaza, but Palestinians are already acting as traffic police and intervening when clashes break out between clans.

Ron was speaking at a ceremony at the district's headquarters in Abu Dis, just outside of Jerusalem, officially marking its start of operations.

Until, both police and army officers have either declined to officially comment on the establishment of Palestinian police units outside of Jericho, or denied their existence.

Ron said one of the jobs of the new district, and its hundreds of additional officers, is to get the police operating in Arab communities again after years of neglect.

He said his officers would work to limit the interference of Palestinians in police work, until the government gives approval for the establishment of a Palestinian police force outside of Jericho and Gaza.

However, he added, the police would not oppose Palestinians organizing unarmed units that would help control traffic or give out parking tickets.

Police Minister Moshe Shabai said the question of when the Palestinians would be allowed to set up their own police force outside Jericho and Gaza is now under negotiation.

He noted the peace accord calls for the IDF to redeploy before the Palestinian elections, but it still must be determined what type of Palestinian security force will replace the army.

"One thing is certain, there will have to be close cooperation between the two sides," Shabai said. Once the Security Service Law is amended, the police plan to draft 1,500 new officers among IDF inductees every year for three years, said Shabai.

Army sources confirmed that such a plan exists, but said that until the law is actually amended to enable the police to do so, the army will not begin making preparations. The sources added that, in the last two years, there are more draftees than needed. Since the IDF is experiencing manpower redundancies, they said, it has no problem accommodating other needs, such as those of the police.

Shabai said that the amendment will be submitted to the Knesset as early as next week, and once it becomes law, the police will be able to enlarge its operational manpower base.



LT. Oren Edri, who is being tried for stealing weapons, giving illegal military training, and conducting unbecoming an officer in connection with the alleged Jewish terrorist underground, married Bruria Lavi yesterday in Moshav Ora just outside Jerusalem. Edri, who has been remanded until the end of his trial, was given three days' leave for the wedding. (Brim Hendler)

Ivry: Nuclear talks will come at the right time

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

THE current dialogue on arms control will create an atmosphere that will enable discussion on non-conventional weapons, Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry, head of the Israeli delegation to the Arms Control Regional Security workgroup, said yesterday in Jordan.

"We're looking forward to cooperating with Arab countries on the whole range of security issues, and we would like to find how this process addresses our concerns and those of everybody else," he said.

But pressed on the question of Israel's reported nuclear arsenal, Ivry said: "We've repeatedly made statements that we see this process [the arms control talks] creating the climate and the atmosphere that will make it possible to deal satisfactorily with this issue at the appropriate time."

Israel, Arab countries, the US, Russia, and several other Western countries are in Jordan in for an inter-session meeting of the workgroup, which will convene next month for a full plenary session in Tunisia.

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

The issue of Israel's nuclear arsenal has repeatedly and consistently been evoked by Arab countries, notably Egypt, as a major obstacle in any arms control agreements. Israel, which has never confirmed nor denied that it possesses a nuclear capability, said in past rounds of talks that any discussion of non-conventional weapons and their proliferation must be dealt with in a comprehensive regional framework, which should include Iran, Iraq, Libya, and Algeria.

"There are interesting ideas on the table, not only for exchanging information but for cooperating in certain areas: visits, contacts, voluntary information exchange, they are very important," said Ivry.

Frederick Axelgard, a senior US State Department official and veteran of arms control negotiations, said the issue of nuclear weapons is not expected to be discussed during the current meeting.

"This issue will be discussed in what we

call our conceptual basket," he said. "This meeting is an operational basket, and we've divided our work. This week we won't be discussing the issue of weapons of mass destruction."

Abdullah Toukan, head of the Jordanian delegation, said the meeting will discuss "exchanges of information, pre-notifications of military exercises and activities, and the establishment of a communications network system."

The meeting is one of a series of similar meetings and conferences designed to set an agenda and exchange ideas prior to the full meetings. The aim of these inter-session conferences is primarily to explore and possibly recommend the implementation of confidence-building measures between Israel and Arab countries.

Syria and Lebanon are boycotting the multilateral sessions until progress is made in the bilateral negotiations, and key regional powers in respect to arms control issues like Iraq and Iran are also not participating on the process.

Palestinians demonstrate against closure

HUNDREDS of Palestinian merchants and truck drivers staged an angry protest against the continued closure of the territories at the Erez checkpoint yesterday.

They demanded that the opening of the border be a condition for the resumption of autonomy talks.

Palestinian Police secured the area and prevented several protesters from forcing their way across the border.

Senior Palestinian security personnel arrived at the scene and viewed the demonstration, in which Gazans brandished Palestinian flags and placards.

Merchants complained to Palestinian Police that the closure was causing them serious financial damage, according to Palestinian sources.

Muhsan Abu Sha'aban, owner of clothing factory in Gaza and a former head of the Gaza textile union, said: "There is no work. The workers in my factory are being paid to sit around and do nothing. The orders from Israel were completed long ago and there is no one to deliver them. Every day is costing me thousands of shekels."

Other demonstrators placed the blame on Hamas terrorists. One placard read: "Because of Hamas, many Gazan children don't have food on the table." The sign, however, was quickly removed.

Palestinian sources said Hamas men observed the demonstration and made note of the participants.

On the Israeli side of the border, a number of Arab women from Israel and the territories held a demonstration, demanding that "Arafat tell Rabin to release our prisoners." (Iim)

Moslems step up criticism of Machpela arrangements

JON IMMANUEL

MANY more Moslems than Jews attended prayers at the Machpela Cave yesterday, the second day it was provisionally opened for worship, but Palestinian criticism of the new arrangements escalated with attendance.

Hamas, which has killed more than 35 Israelis in bus bombings and other attacks after last February's massacre of 29 Moslems, yesterday promised more violence if the building Moslems call the Ibrahimiyeh Mosque remains partitioned.

The building is closed today until Friday, and Moslems are demanding changes before it is reopened.

Serious tension can be expected if 2,000 worshippers arrive for Friday prayers, and almost all are turned back because the IDF has placed a limit of 200 on attendance.

The three main criticisms concern the tight security procedures at the entrance, barring Moslems from half the sanctuary, and the ceiling on the number of worshippers. They are described as unjust and objectionable to Moslem religious feelings.

Palestinian Authority Wakf Minister Hassan Tabhouh called

the arrangements "a farce unprecedented in history" and speculated that worship would soon be by invitation only. Others have said it is more difficult to enter the mosque than the Hebron military governor's compound. A long line formed at the entrance for security checks yesterday.

The Hamas leaflet, issued in Gaza near Hebron, said that "the response of our fighters and heroes to this crime will be painful and decisive." It accused Israel of "Judaizing" the mosque.

What is more dangerous, most Moslems read the new situation in the same way as Hamas.

"It has doubled Hebron residents' feelings that they have been punished twice for the [Baruch Goldstein] massacre, once with blood and now with partition," Hebron municipality director Azam Muhtaseb told *An-Nahar*. Fatah issued a leaflet in Hebron making the same criticisms as Hamas, but did not call for violence.

Moslems are already complaining of harassment by Jewish worshippers, despite the army's efforts to keep them apart. A woman was accused of banging on the other side of the partition during Moslem midday prayers on Monday.

EU to open office in Gaza today

JON IMMANUEL

A EUROPEAN Union delegation is to establish an office in Gaza today "to implement and monitor" European Commission aid.

The office should start a five-year flow of \$620 million, held up because the Europeans and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat disagreed on how the funds will be audited. Now it seems the European Commission will do the auditing itself.

Absence of funding has kept Gaza economic development at a virtual standstill since self-rule began.

Today, Arafat will lay the foundation stone on an EU-funded, 108-unit housing project in Rafiah. However, like other Gaza housing projects in progress, this one is not the fruit of peace; the funds were committed in 1991. Accounting is handled by UNRWA.

Housing projects are recognized as a desperate need, but Gaza builders want to work in Israel because there are not enough construction jobs in Gaza.

The problem of the fund shortage, according to Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, is not accountability, but something Palestinians never considered when they received the first trappings of statehood. The closer you are to a state the more accountability is required.

Hussein said the EU maintains that "we can't give you money for such and such a project because you are not a state. So when we say what about non-government organizations they say, but you are on your way to becoming a state. This is always used against us."

In an interview yesterday with *Al-Kuds*, Saudi billionaire Adnan Khashoggi said he was deterred from investing in Gaza, Jericho, or the territories because "capital cannot live except in an atmosphere of security." Khashoggi, who has bought a 10 percent stake in the business daily *Telegraph*, praised Israel for not suffering from the "contradictions" of Arab countries. He advised Arab investors to enter into partnerships with Israelis.

Suspect in weapons theft turns state's evidence

Yoram Livraty, 22 of Ashdod, who is suspected of stealing weapons from the Tz'elim army base in July and selling them to Hamas, has agreed to turn state's evidence in the case, and in other crimes he allegedly helped commit.

He has admitted breaking into the armory and stealing 20 Galil rifles, which he sold to Hamas. Only four have been recovered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mortar fire on IDF outpost in Lebanon
Several mortar shells were fired yesterday at an IDF outpost near Talusa in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon, but caused no damage or injuries. IDF artillery returned fire, but apparently caused no damage, an army spokesman confirmed.

In another incident in south Lebanon, a Polish demolition expert was wounded when his truck drove over an explosive charge, a United Nations spokesman said yesterday.

Ties with Oman possibly in January
"In January, Israel will establish ties with another Arab state," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced yesterday. He was speaking at the Beit Hanassi ceremony at which President Ezer Weizman signed the peace treaty with Jordan. Peres refused to elaborate, but Israel Radio identified the country as Oman.

No agreement with Kupat Holim workers
No agreement was reached last night with Kupat Holim workers, who are threatening to strike tomorrow. Following a meeting between the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee and the Kupat Holim workers' committee, Yossi Katz, chairman of the Knesset panel, told Israel Radio that the gap between the sides had narrowed, and the remaining problems are with the nurses. Katz said he hoped to meet with the nurses to resolve the conflict later last night.

Trial opens of man accused of killing Arab
The trial of Daniel Morali, 42, the Ashkelon man accused of the premeditated murder of truck driver Riyad Hassan Silimiya opened yesterday in Beersheba District Court. The court heard that Morali had a copy of Baruch Goldstein's last letter in his pocket when he shot Silimiya, 35, of Idna, near Hebron, on March 25 on the Hebron-Kiryat Gat road. (Iim)

Man killed in territories' incident
A man was killed in Ramallah yesterday and another seriously wounded in Nablus by gunshots following stone-throwing incidents, the IDF said. The Ramallah incident occurred after Palestinian youths threw stones at a Border Police patrol, which fired back, killing Mahmoud Haniye, 30, Palestinian sources said. A 55-year-old man was seriously wounded by shots in a similar incident involving soldiers, the IDF said.

SELF-RULE

(Continued from Page 1)
elements are putting in our way, and we are confident we will be able to do this," he said.

Asked if he blamed Israel for last week's assassination of Islamic Jihad activist Hani Abed, Arafat replied, "I am not interested in dealing with it."

However, when asked if he supported the Israel-Jordan peace treaty, Arafat offered his first known public endorsement. "There is no doubt that I support the peace treaty between the Jordanians and the Israelis," he said.

He noted he had a reservation about one element of the deal, alluding to passage about the

"high priority" accorded to Jordanian administration of Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday, Faisal Hussein said that as far as he is concerned, the differences with Jordan concerning Jerusalem are "more of a misunderstanding than anything else. I think that Crown Prince Hassan made it clear in Casablanca, when he said that when the Palestinians get back Jerusalem, Jordan will not insist that it will be responsible for the holy places."

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

CHEEK BY JOWL

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December Saturday, 17th at 20:30
Sherover Theatre Monday, December 19, at 20:30
Tuesday, December 20, at 20:30

Tickets:
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Suspended term for burier of live chickens

LIAT COLLINS

THE contractor who buried alive thousands of chickens was given a 10-month suspended prison sentence and a NIS 7,000 fine this week by Ramle Magistrate's Court. Ofer Shmueli's company, Off Eser Ltd., was also fined NIS 7,000.

The Environment Ministry pressed charges against Shmueli after *The Jerusalem Post* revealed the incident in June last year.

Apart from the chickens buried alive at a site near Moshav Beit Nehemia near Ben-Gurion Airport, thousands more were packed into a sealed truck and suffocated to death. Shmueli had a tender from the Agriculture Ministry and Poultry Board to destroy "surplus" egg layers.

Amir Levin, head of the Environment Ministry's national patrol department who led the investigation, found that between May and June 1993 Shmueli buried some 30,000 chickens on the banks of

Nahal Arif close to fresh water wells. He continued to do this even after he received a warning, Levin said.

In his ruling Judge Shmuel Baruch referred to the potential damage that could have been caused to national water supplies by the burial of the chickens close to wells.

Levin noted that Shmueli was charged under the 1956 Water Law over the pollution aspect. The Cruelty to Animals Law had not been passed when the case was sent to court, he noted.

"I'm pleased people are beginning to take animal cruelty seriously. Even if these are farm animals that people eat, they do not deserve the terrible death by suffocation," said Let the Animals Live spokeswoman Etti Altman yesterday. "However, I will not be happy until I see cruelty case offenders actually being sent to prison and not just receiving conditional sentences."

Suspect charged in murder of underworld restaurateur

RAINE MARCUS

REUVEN Graziani, 36, was formally indicted yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court for the murder of underworld figure Amnon Bahashian, shot to death outside his Tel Aviv restaurant in August.

A man wearing a baseball cap and dark glasses shot Bahashian at close range and then fled on foot.

The prosecution claims that Graziani, who had been released from a US prison where he served a sentence for drugs offenses, was planning to flee back to the US using a different name. He had already applied to the Interior Ministry to change his name. Legally he was not allowed to return to the US.

The charge sheet also said he phoned his brother, Joe, a week after the murder and said: "The thing has been done, the work has been done," and police believe he was referring to the killing.

Bahashian was wanted by the FBI for the attempted murder of Joe Graziani, who was supposed to testify against him in court. Bahashian's nephew is presently serving a prison sentence in the US for the attempted murder.

Graziani was arrested in September and has refused to cooperate with police. He also refused to take part in a line up. Eventually

police used a photograph for the line up, but no eyewitness identified him.

The indictment said Bahashian's murderer threw the sunglasses in an alley and the cap and clothes in a garbage can. Fingerprints on the glasses match those of Graziani, and his mother identified clothes in the garbage as belonging to him.

Defense lawyer David Yiftah said there is no concrete evidence linking his client to the killing, only circumstantial, and as such the prosecution was abusing the law.

A debate on Graziani's remand until trial has been postponed until the end of this month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Air gunner gets 42 months

A Ramat Gan youth who shot his air gun in the streets of Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan in April, wounding 20 people, was sentenced to 42 months in jail by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday.

The youth, 18, who was a minor at the time of the incident, went driving on the night of April 24 with a friend. The two shot some 70 pellets at passersby. Judge Natan Amit said the shootings were a "mischievous and stupid act," and the sentencing should serve to deter others.

Mofaz takes over Southern Command today

Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz will today assume command of the IDF Southern Command. Mofaz, previously OC Judea and Samaria, is replacing Maj.-Gen. Mattan Vilnai who on January 1, 1995 will become the new deputy chief of staff.

Among the major tasks Mofaz will be facing is the continued implementation of the Cairo agreement and cooperation with Palestinian authorities and security forces on containing Hamas activity.

Ben-Amotz footage to be shown on news

Excerpts of the filmed footage of Bohemian author and columnist Dahn Ben-Amotz's "funeral bash" will be broadcast Friday on Channel 1 as part of its news magazine and not as a separate program as originally planned.

Earlier this week the artists association, EMI, and several leading entertainers asked IBA director Mordechai Kirschenbaum to refrain from screening the footage of the party which was held as a private event.

Ben-Amotz held the well-publicized party for his friends six months before he died of liver cancer in October 1989. During the event he read a farewell letter and received people's respects.

Funds collected for Jordanian girl's surgery

A total of NIS 130,000 has been collected by local businessmen to cover the cost of performing a bone-marrow transplant on a 12-year-old Jordanian girl at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

The fund-raising effort was initiated by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who two weeks ago received a personal letter from the girl, Heba Shaban.

The fund is being coordinated by lawyer Reuven Reif of Tel Aviv, who is doing the job voluntarily. Shlomo Grofman, managing director of Africa-Israel Investments, volunteered to collect donations, and managed to collect NIS 100,000. An additional NIS 30,000 was collected by Jewish Agency treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, jack of hearts, queen of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Study: Russian immigrant nurses attain local standards after 15 months' retraining

JUDY SIEGEL

FIFTEEN months after completing a retraining course here and beginning to work in a local hospital, Russian immigrant nurses catch up with Israeli-trained nurses, showing almost comparable levels of performance and knowledge.

This finding emerges from a study of 21 immigrant nurses and 19 locally trained nurses conducted by a team at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital. The research was presented yesterday to the Ninth Biennial Congress of Israeli Nurses, which completes two days of deliberations at the Jerusalem International Convention Center this afternoon.

The study, conducted by Esther Kovalio, Yael Bar-Natan and Tova Kirschenbaum, looked at immigrants from the CIS who were qualified nurses in their native country, but who had to complete a seven-month course required by the Health Ministry before being eligible for a license. Both they and their Israeli counterparts in the study graduated from the Shaare Zedek nursing school in October 1992.

Checked six months after graduation, the Russian immigrants were far behind the Israeli-trained

nurses in performance and in knowledge, but had nearly caught up nine months later. The researchers also found that veteran nurses' reluctance to accept the immigrants as equals dissipates over time.

The team plans to do another evaluation in nine months and recommend that the authorities conduct a nationwide study.

Addressing the convention, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said the nursing profession had undergone a revolution in the past decade, with nurses achieving higher education levels and the introduction of new technologies.

After the national health insurance system is put into effect in January, Sneh said he would have the time to help pass a Nurses' Law, which would for the first time set down formal qualifications and details about the status of nurses. He added that he had recently prevented the closing of two nursing schools that had been planned due to Kupat Holim Clalit's financial woes.

Sneh called on nurses and other health workers to be flexible and find a way to prevent the collapse of Clalit, whose workers are threatening a general strike from tomorrow.

Third man arrested in prison guard's shooting

RAINE MARCUS

THE third suspect in the October 30 attempted murder of Benny Aviram, head of security at the Niznan detention center, where many of Uzi Meshulam's followers were held pending trial, was arrested yesterday.

The arrest follows the interrogation of scores of Meshulam's followers.

Aviram had left his Kiryat Malachi home for work, when three men in a van opened fire on him, wounding him in the chest, shoulder, and jaw. He fired back and two of his attackers were wounded. They were arrested when they went to the hospital for treatment, but the third man escaped.

The man, 25, of Rosh Ha'ayin, is expected to appear in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing tomorrow.

Following the arrest of Meshulam and his armed followers last June, police were supposed to keep other followers under surveillance. Sources said at the time that they were dangerous. The fact that three were able to follow and shoot at a prison guard shows that police procedures and intelligence are lax, said an officer.

Golan awarded NIS 100,000 in libel suit against Schocken

JOURNALIST Matti Golan was awarded a libel judgment of NIS 100,000 by the Jerusalem District Court yesterday, in connection with a suit he had filed relating to a *Hadashot* column that ran when he moved from the business daily *Globe* to its competitor, *Telegraph*.

He had filed the suit against the Schocken newspaper chain, Yoel Esteron, former editor of the now-defunct *Hadashot*, and Ron Myberg and Amnon Dankner, who he said libeled him in the column that appeared under their joint byline.

Judge Ya'acov Bazak also ordered the defendants to publicize, at their expense, those sections of his decision which found that Myberg and Dankner had written many falsehoods.

The column appeared in January 1993. Golan contended that

when he heard the column was going to be run, he phoned Esteron, told him that Myberg and Dankner were hostile to him, and asked him to check the column for slanders.

Golan said the source of this enmity was the criticism he had leveled against Dankner's 1992 biography of Dahn Ben-Amotz and those, such as Myberg, who had praised it. He also said that when he had been managing editor of *Ha'aretz*, he had fired Dankner over an interview in which he criticized the paper's editors.

Bazak found there was no substance to the column's contention that Golan is "a lazy man who spends most of the time outside the office getting rest." The column also contended that Golan is a "wild man about expenses." Bazak also found this baseless. (Itm)

German Jurgen Moser wins Wolf Prize in mathematics

THIS year's Wolf Prize in Mathematics will be awarded to Jurgen Moser, 66, of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, the Wolf Foundation said yesterday.

It said that Moser would receive the \$100,000 award at a March 26 ceremony at the Knesset.

Moser is being honored for "fundamental work on stability in Hamiltonian mechanics and his profound, influential contributions to nonlinear differential equations," the statement said.

Born in Konigsberg, Germany, Moser taught mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for almost 25 years and from 1960 to 1980 also taught at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Science in New York City. He also served as its director.

Since 1980 he has been associated with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and served as director of its Research Institute for Mathematics.



Jurgen Moser

The Wolf Foundation was set up by the late Ricardo Wolf, a former Cuban ambassador to Israel, who lived here for 20 years. It awards annual prizes in several scientific fields.



Reuma Weizman makes the first donation at Beit Hanassi yesterday for the campaign to collect funds for the country's blind and deaf population. (Photo Noy)

Rabbinic court official testifies on bill that could force husbands to grant divorce

EVELYN GORDON

SOME 400 to 500 divorce cases have been dragging their way through the rabbinical courts for three years or more, rabbinical courts director Eliahu Ben-Dahan told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Ben-Dahan also said the rabbinical courts recommend trying to force men to grant a divorce in 200 to 300 cases a year.

Ben-Dahan compiled this information at the request of committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz), so that the committee could understand the dimensions of the problem before finishing a bill to enable the rabbinical courts to impose various sanctions on men who refuse to grant their wives a divorce. The bill is now being prepared for its final plenum reading.

Since Jewish law contains no definition of when a man has refused to grant a divorce, Ben-Dahan said, he is willing to accept Zucker's proposed definition of anyone whose case has been dragging out for three years or more, as long as the courts have actually been working steadily on the case.

The proposed bill states that if a rabbinical court rules that a husband is being recalcitrant, it may forbid him to do any or all of the following: leave the country; obtain a passport; visa; driver's license or credit card; open a bank account or write checks; obtain any job in the civil service, army, police, local authorities or any other public body; or work in any profession requiring a government license, such as law or medicine.

Prof. Ariel Rosen-Zvi, who addressed the committee yesterday, said the committee must make sure the bill does not contradict the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

In principle, Rosen-Zvi said, there is no contradiction, because enabling women to obtain a divorce without being subject to financial blackmail is clearly in line with the Basic Law's goals. However, he added, since some of the proposed sanctions could also be considered infringements of freedoms protected by the law, the committee must be careful to strike a proper balance.

Tzaban: No change in demographics of immigrants

ABSORPTION Minister Yair Tzaban yesterday flatly rejected claims of a "deterioration" in the demographic makeup of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

"In the past four years, the makeup has remained stable," Tzaban said in response to claims that most immigrants are now elderly.

During a tour of Or Yehuda, Tzaban said that over the past four years, 25 percent of the immigrants were under 18 and 40% 19-44. Only 15% were over 65, he said.

He noted that after examining the statistics of the past three months, he found that the number of youngsters had increased by 1%, while the number of elderly dropped by the same amount.

Tzaban praised the educational level of the immigrants. "We have received a population with a rare educational profile," he said.

He noted that before the recent immigration wave there were seven engineers per 1,000 people in the population, while 21 of every 1,000 immigrants are engineers. (Itm)

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France cracks down on Algerian militants

PARIS (AP) — In France's biggest sweep against Islamic militants, police yesterday seized weapon caches and arrested 95 people suspected of aiding fundamentalist guerrillas in Algeria.

Coordinated raids took place throughout the Paris region and elsewhere in France before daybreak, involving more than 300 officers from elite police units, authorities said.

Police said weapons were found at several sites, including a large cache of firearms and explosives uncovered by masked police commandos at Villeneuve-Saint-Georges, a heavily immigrant suburb southeast of Paris.

The arms — including shotguns, grenades and Kalashnikov assault rifles — allegedly were destined for the Armed Islamic Group, the largest of the hardline guerrilla forces seeking to topple Algeria's army-backed government.

The raids were ordered by France's top anti-terrorism judge, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has been investigating the presence in France of networks supporting the guerrillas.

These militants "are bent on pursuing terrorist and clandestine activities on our territory," said Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

Pasqua, who has spearheaded a yearlong crackdown on Moslem militants, said investigators un-



Two suspected Islamic militants are arrested by masked policemen in a Paris suburb yesterday. (AP)

covered links between the French network and fundamentalist supporters in Germany, Canada,

Britain, Italy and the Netherlands. He said the investigation

proved how easily fundamentalist militants could operate in Europe with false identity papers. He also

said the militants had recruited common criminals to help them amass money and weapons.

The investigation that led to the raids began in May, when information was received that hardliners linked to the Armed Islamic Group had set up operations in an Islamic school near Orly airport, south of Paris.

Investigators said two suspected ringleaders — brothers Mohamed and Ibrahim Chalabi — used a sports and cultural association as cover for drug-trafficking, forging false documents and acquiring arms.

Subsequent investigations uncovered the identity of a man suspected of being one of the Armed Islamic Group's top agents in Europe. The man, identified as Mourad Adou, was arrested yesterday at a Paris hideout, Pasqua said.

Algerian authorities have blamed the Armed Islamic Group for hundreds of sabotage attacks and assassinations, many of them targeting journalists, intellectuals and foreigners. Of 69 foreigners killed since September 1993, 21 were French.

The Armed Islamic Group, which seeks to establish an Islamic state by winning a "holy war," has rejected any dialogue with the government. It accuses France of helping prop up the regime.

Russia: Iraq ready to recognize Kuwait's border

MOSCOW (AP) — Iraq is ready to how to a key UN demand and formally recognize Kuwait's borders, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

The announcement came after Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met with his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, who delivered a letter for Russian President Boris Yeltsin from Saddam Hussein concerning recognition.

The Iraqi president told Kozyrev last month that he would recognize Kuwait's borders in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council was not content with his informal pledge and has insisted that Iraq's Revolutionary Council and its parliament make the recognition official.

They appear to be ready to do so, judging from the Foreign Ministry announcement.

It said Yeltsin ordered Kozyrev to "fly to Baghdad to take part in the completion of the corresponding constitutional procedures" for recognition. Kozyrev was to leave today. Recognition could be a step to-

ward the lifting of UN sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, something Russia has long sought.

In Cairo, Arab League Secretary-General Ismail Abdul-Maguid said Iraq's recognition of Kuwait would be "a very important step" and "a beginning to restore the situation to normal."

A multinational force led by the United States is deployed in the Gulf to face down Iraq's latest threat to his tiny, oil-rich neighbor.

Russia, which was once Iraq's main source of arms and a major trading partner, has been pushing for the lifting of UN sanctions. An end to the sanctions would mean, among other things, that Iraq could begin repaying its debt to Russia.

Baghdad owes Moscow \$7 billion from before the Gulf War, which it expects to be paid once Iraq is allowed to resume worldwide oil sales.

Russia and Iraq also signed a \$10 billion agreement in September for an array of industrial and oil projects in Iraq once the sanctions are lifted.

Clinton takes to the airwaves as polls predict Democrat losses

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Americans voted yesterday in elections that could give Republicans control of one or both houses of Congress but a defiant White House scoffed at predictions of doom for President Bill Clinton's Democrats.

After days of furiously flying around the country to win support for his embattled party, Clinton took to the "drive time" radio airwaves yesterday to urge Americans not to let the negative spirit of the campaign deter them from voting.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers flatly predicted that Democrats would hold on to their majorities in the House of Representatives and the Senate, although she conceded there would be some losses "consistent with historical trends."

Most first-term presidents lose

some support in Congress during elections held in the second year of their term, but political experts say one would have to go back to 1946 and Harry Truman's presidency to match the kind of losses the polls say Clinton is facing.

Republican control of both houses of Congress would be a damaging blow to Clinton's presidency — and potentially, to his 1996 re-election prospects.

If the Democrats lose the Senate, the shift in the power balance in Washington would mean Clinton having to barter with Republicans to get anything done. Key committees, which control legislation, would be chaired by fierce foes.

For example, arch-conservative Jesse Helms of North Carolina would chair the Foreign Relations Committee and Alfonse D'Amato of New York, a Clinton scourge,

would head the Banking Committee.

A loss of the House as well would add up for Clinton to a catastrophe. The new House speaker could be Newt Gingrich of Georgia, who recently characterized Democrats as "the enemy of normal people." He later called that a poor choice of words.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour declared the election for all 435 House seats, 35 of 100 Senate seats and 36 state governorships to be a "a referendum on the direction that Bill Clinton wants to take the country."

A Clinton aide said the president's radio message yesterday was aimed at getting out as many votes as possible, especially among minority groups who traditionally support Democrats and who could spell the difference in dozens of tight races.

IKEA founder explains pro-Nazi past

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The founder of the home furnishing giant IKEA has sent a letter to some 25,000 employees worldwide explaining his past involvement with pro-Nazi groups, the company said yesterday.

Ingvar Kamprad, 68, was trying to head off any fallout from reports this week by the Stockholm daily *Expressen*. The paper uncovered Kamprad's name in the archives of a Swedish pro-Nazi activist who died recently.

The archives showed that Kamprad had attended a number of meetings and had befriended the

activist. Per Engdahl, starting in 1945 and extending into the 1950s.

The newspaper printed more details yesterday, including the text of a 1950 note from Kamprad to the extremist leader in which Kamprad said he was "proud" to be involved with the groups.

Kamprad admitted his involvement in a handwritten statement which was sent Monday to some 125 IKEA stores employing 25,000 people worldwide, said his assistant, Staffan Jeppsson.

In the note, Kamprad called his activities "a part of my life which I bitterly regret."

He said he cut off the contacts in the 1950s when he "realized this was a mistake."

"The contact with Engdahl lasted some time into the 1950s, but became more and more one-sided," Kamprad wrote. "However, I was not brave enough to put my foot down down."

"You have been young yourself," he continued in the note to employees. "Perhaps something happened during your own youth which you now, a long time afterwards, think was silly. In that case it will be easier for you to understand me."

War-crimes tribunal moves toward first trial

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The Yugoslav War-Crimes Tribunal formally asked Germany yesterday to turn over the case of a Bosnian Serb for what would be the first international war-crimes trial since World War II.

In a latter-day parallel to the Nuremberg and Tokyo war-crimes trials of the 1940s, three judges in a courtroom rented at an insurance company headquarters ruled that the case of Dusan Tadic is suitable for trial by the United Nations court.

Unlike the postwar tribunals, the UN court has no suspects in custody, few resources and is openly striving to prove itself to the international organization picking up the tab for its operations.

Garbed in black and red, the judges convened the Tribunal under ultra-tight security, with the bench shielded by bullet-proof glass and armed guards.

"The trial chamber... hereby grants the said application, formally requests the Federal Republic of Germany to defer to the International Tribunal criminal proceedings currently being conducted in its national courts against the said Duso (Dusan) Tadic," said Presiding Judge Adolphus Karibi-Whyte of Nigeria.

Tadic has been held by Germany since being denounced by a Bosnian Moslem last February in a German refugee camp.

German authorities indicted him Monday on genocide and murder charges, but have ex-

pressed willingness to turn his case over to the Tribunal.

The Tribunal is investigating charges against him of murder, torture, ethnic cleansing and gang rape.

After the ruling, Tribunal Registrar Theo van Boven said Tadic, a 38-year-old former bar owner and karate instructor, would most likely be the first case to go to trial before the UN war-crimes panel.

It's likely the trial would begin next spring, he said, adding that the maximum sentence would be life imprisonment if Tadic is convicted.

Unlike the World War II tribunals, the Yugoslav war-crimes court cannot hand down the death penalty.

Three killed in Sarajevo attack

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — Sniper bullets and mortar fire killed two teenage girls and a woman in Sarajevo yesterday, doctors and eyewitnesses said, in the worst attacks on civilians in the city for some months.

"One girl died from a bullet wound to the head and the other from massive shrapnel injuries," said Dr. Kemal Drndic of Sarajevo's central hospital.

The 11-year-old girl, Nermina Omerovic, was shot in her home in an apartment block on front-

lines facing Bosnian Serb forces, near the city's Holiday Inn hotel.

Eyewitnesses said the second girl, Lejla Hodzic, 15, was killed when a mortar round hit a crowd in a suburb to the north of the city center. Three other children and two adults were also seriously injured in that attack, doctors said.

A third death occurred when a woman, thought to be around 30, was hit by shrapnel in a second mortar attack in the same northern suburb, said policemen who brought the body to the hospital.

UN officers said they were unable to confirm the mortar attacks but said their troops had earlier returned fire against Serb snipers targeting tanks moving through the city.

A shaky cease-fire in Sarajevo has generally held since February but two fierce firefights in the last three nights have raised the level of military tension. UN commanders have requested a NATO air presence on three consecutive evenings to help restore calm to the city.

Two Teheran bombs kill up to three

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran accused its main opposition group yesterday of setting off two bomb explosions in impoverished, crowded, south Teheran, killing as many as three people and possibly wounding scores of others.

But the Iraq-based Mujahadeen Khalq said government agents planted the bombs to implicate the rebels and justify more attacks against their bases across the border.

A brief dispatch by the Islamic Republic News Agency said the blasts occurred Monday night, killing three people and wounding scores of others.

In a later report, state-run Teheran Radio quoted an unidentified official as saying only two people were killed and no one was injured.

The official said some clues had been found in the investigation; and that his men were "pursuing those responsible."

Sources knowledgeable about Teheran said casualties could be much higher. The bombs exploded in poor, cramped suburbs where houses and shops are packed wall-to-wall, and cars are lined bumper-to-bumper during the evening rush-hour.

Both IRNA and Teheran Radio were monitored in Cyprus.

Live, from LA, it's the O.J. Simpson show!

LOS ANGELES — Clearing the way for viewers across the country to tune in to the O.J. Simpson murder trial, Superior Court Judge Lance A. Ito ruled Monday that a television camera may stay in the courtroom, a decision that at least temporarily ends a legal dispute that has dogged the case for more than a month.

As the session began Monday, Ito displayed 21 boxes containing 12,468 letters from people who urged him to cut off the camera, but ultimately he declined to carry out his threat to curtail courtroom television coverage.

Ito announced on September 30 that he was considering pulling the plug, following airing of an erroneous report about DNA evidence and broadcast of close-up shots of jurors from a different trial.

During the past five weeks, however, Ito has observed a "higher level of responsibility" in reporting on the case, he said Monday. More important, the judge added, he has concluded that the camera in the courtroom was not to blame for the earlier problems.

"What caused the court its initial concern... happened outside of this courtroom," Ito said, noting that he has taken several steps to curtail publicity in the case since the inaccurate DNA story, initially broadcast by the Los Angeles NBC affiliate and then repeated by other news organizations. "The bottom line is whether or not the transgressions that caused the court to set this hearing took place within the confines of the court... I find that they did not. The court's previous ruling allowing television coverage stands."

The only condition Ito put on the continued television coverage was that Court TV, which runs the courtroom camera, set up a remote control camera on the courtroom wall above the jury. Because the camera would be inconspicuous, it would minimize the potential for witness intimidation. Its placement would also ensure that the jurors' faces are not televised.

Court TV's president said the camera could be installed within a day or so.

Los Angeles Times

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Japan continues to 'feed the Iranian kitty'

MIKE JACOBS
TOKYO

In the first part of this article, published last week, the writer investigated growing international controversy over Japan's Overseas Development Aid (ODA) program for Iran, and the fear that such aid provides funds, or releases funds, for Tehran's fundamentalist policies and terrorist operations.

DESPITE mounting pressure around the globe for Japan to stop "feeding the Iranian kitty," a development loan of \$370 million winged its way to Tehran last year.

It carried low interest and seven years' grace, and was ostensibly for the first stage of a massive hydroelectric project.

In order that oil-rich Iran can enjoy subsidized electricity for its future economic development, Japan is in the process of endorsing officially at least another \$450m. for the same scheme.

Japanese taxpayers will eventually be underwriting about 70 percent of the massive \$1.5 billion in estimated costs.

Strong pressure from the US, Britain and Israel has held up the second payment, which is now long overdue as the Japanese government remains perched on some uncomfortable fences.

It is trying to placate those who must sponsor it for a coveted seat on the UN Security Council. It is keeping a wary eye on US election results, anticipating some tough anti-Iranian Republicans.

Meanwhile, it is also playing the "pragmatic" game with Iran.

A SOURCE at the Japanese Economic

Planning Agency explained the present status of the second loan:

"Before the cabinet can give the go-ahead, there must first be a joint meeting of the Foreign and Finance ministries, the Economic Planning Agency and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Division. Getting all four to agree on this issue of ODA for Iran is as up-in-the-air as scheduling the statutory meeting essential for ratification. There are no plans for a meeting in the near future."

This "willingness" of the government and "sluggishness" of the bureaucracy provide good official excuses to stall Tehran; it's a case of the same policeman playing both good and bad cop.

So why in any case does oil-producing Iran need ODA from Japan - and debt restructuring from Japan and Germany?

The *Asahi Shimbun* daily gave some answers in a recent editorial that started by quoting a top Iranian government official. He said the aid and restructuring were necessary to make money more readily available for "other projects."

Asahi itself went on to explain that these "other projects" included "shipping guns and cash to overthrow Muslim governments, sending hitmen to murder exiled dissidents, developing missile technology, and financing Iran's global mischief."

The Japanese government argues that debt restructuring is a matter for private enterprise, but this country is notorious for government collusion with business interests.

The rescheduling of \$3b. in short-term debts has been necessary simply because

the Iranians are strapped for cash due to overspending and shortfalls in projected oil revenues.

In the first half of this year, trade with Iran by the G7 nations has shown substantial downturns, especially in the case of Germany. This cannot be good news down the line for those waiting their turn for Iran's generosity, like Hizbullah and Hamas.

THE INDIRECT implications of Japan officially funding the terrorist regime in Tehran is a fact of international economic life about which most people in Japan would know absolutely nothing, even though the country is now the world's biggest provider of such ODA funds.

But is it not Japanese taxpayers' money that is being diverted to the major paymasters of terrorism?

That, as one Japanese Middle East expert said, "could be straight out of a comic book."

The average Japanese taxpayer, he said, has little or no knowledge of how taxes are spent. Taxes lose any real meaning when most people think in terms of tax-paid income. Consequently, politicians are rarely questioned about how public funds are disbursed.

"For most Japanese, funding for ODA is unquestioned charity, an obligation for a wealthy and successful nation," the expert said.

"Japanese public generosity is of

course also motivated by a commercial need to grab what's left of the regional petrodollars after the Americans tied up the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia through its military protection."

The ODA on offer to Iran is officially monitored by the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). It supervises payments released directly to contractors and the Japanese government defensively asserts that no money is paid to the Iranian government itself.

However, due to its economic problems, Iran itself is not contributing to the \$1.5b. hydroelectric project, the venture at the heart of the present row over Japanese aid. Since this money is not forthcoming, it remains in the central government's budget.

After that, where the earmarked but unused money actually goes is beyond any control.

A Japanese official hopefully suggested that when ODA is given to Iran, money is actually removed from its central budget to be earmarked for the development project - thus reducing cash available for terrorism.

That's a check that's still in the mail. In fact, official statements from the Japanese usually hover somewhere between ambiguity and duplicity: "We call on Iran to cease actions contrary to efforts for international peace and stability."

And: "There is no clear evidence that Iran is stepping up its ef-

orts to groups like Hamas."

Then there was: "Japan's policy of 'constructive engagement' [with Iran] seems to be working somewhat." And: "There is no clear evidence that Iran's behavior has improved."

Likewise: "There is no solid evidence that Iran is stepping up assistance to Moslem fundamentalist groups." And: "Iran's behavior in opposition to the Middle East peace negotiations is a source of concern we discussed at the Tokyo Summit [of the G7 in 1993]."

The official government line on the issue of Iran remains as vague and divided as the range of individual opinions among top officials.

The Foreign Ministry - the rock on which Japan builds every detail of its global relations - is in a quandary because of the politicians trying to protect Japan Inc. - the corporate funds that stoke the ruling parties.

THE Third Principle of the Japanese ODA Charter states explicitly:

"Full attention shall be paid to trends in the military expenditures of recipient countries, to their development and production of missiles and weapons of mass destruction, and to their import and export of weapons."

Iran is obviously sinning against all these commandments of Japanese aid, clearly invalidating its eligibility.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* with complete aplomb: "In the real world, there are principles and there are pragmatic considerations, such as our bilateral friend-

ship with Iran, which covers politics, economics and the expansion of future opportunities."

This, of course, is not unlike the US attitude to ODA for China.

The terrorist bombing of the No. 5 bus in Tel Aviv stirred concerned governments into more direct and indirect actions against Hamas and its Iranian patrons.

As often happens in a Japan which is trying to play a major role in world affairs, a choice has to be made between unilateral policies that are good for Japan alone and multilateral responsibilities to a world that supports its economy.

Japan is now facing international problems. Its powerful global colleagues don't seem so thrilled at the prospect of sitting opposite it on the UN Security Council. This Western reserve replacing enthusiastic support is causing concern at all levels of business and government in Japan.

Rejection and alienation are acts deeply felt in the Japanese cultural psyche, so perhaps a pragmatic stop will be put now to this political siding with the self-alienating regime of Iran.

If the Japanese people ever became knowledgeable on such matters, it is absolutely certain they would oppose ODA to Iran.

They know money can't buy you love. They need to understand that it can buy you war or peace.

The two-part article was specially written for *The Jerusalem Post* by this Japan-based correspondent.

Dronka residents turn from shock to bitterness

DOMINIC EVANS
DRONKA, Egypt

WHEN a river of flame swept through the Egyptian village of Dronka at dawn, residents thought the end of the world was at hand.

Now angry residents wonder whether the hundreds who died by fire and flood were the victims of an act of God or government folly.

"They broke big fuel tanks just a hundred meters from the houses. Then they put a railway line which traps the floods," said Hussein Gamal, a farmer from Dronka. "You can't say it is just a natural disaster."

Floodwaters from a freak storm smashed through the railway embankment last Wednesday and carried burning fuel from broken tanks into the village. Dozens of houses were gutted; others were half buried in mud. The fire left a black scar running through the village.

Fields more than a kilometer away were seas of mud dotted with charred animal carcasses and burned trees.

Shocked residents watched in silence over the weekend as rescue workers recovered 40 more bodies from blackened houses. Nearly 500 people are known to have perished.

A mother sobbed while volunteers waist-deep in mud searched for her seven-year-old daughter, missing since the disaster. Others were bitter about what they said was an avoidable disaster, and complained that aid was slow to arrive.

"They brought us nothing here," said Moussa Abdoussabour, standing in 15 cm. of mud and trying to rebuild his house brick by brick. He said he had slept on the street for two nights.

Many spent the first night in mosques in Assiut, where local people brought them blankets and food. A helper at one of the mosques said the outlawed Moslem Brotherhood had also been quick to try to help.

"It was the people who helped the people, not the government," Gamal said.

Rescue officials in Dronka say much of the aid went to some 200 victims sheltered



Egyptian women near the village of Dronka, 320 km. south of Cairo, are in tears following last week's fire which killed nearly 500 people. (AP)

at a military camp in the desert 10 km. away. Foreign reporters were barred from the camp.

Security sources say that in addition to those who died at Dronka, floods killed about 80 people in the south last week. (Reuters)

US investigates Hamas, an unwanted bedfellow

DOYLE McMANUS
and RONALD J. OSTROW
WASHINGTON

AS the Clinton administration launches a major effort to crack down on Hamas, government analysts in Washington have issued a grim warning: In the short run, there isn't much the US can do.

Hamas, they say, is an unusually well-run terrorist group - rooted in a solid political base among young Palestinians, organized with awesome discipline and security, and sparing in its use of money and explosives.

Hamas has declared its goal to torpedo the peace process. Its grim terrorist muscle was demonstrated by the kidnapping and murder of Nahshon Wachsmann and the No. 5 bus bomb in Dizengoff that killed 22 people.

President Bill Clinton, denouncing the group as enemies of peace after the Dizengoff outrage, directed his cabinet to find ways that the US could help quash Hamas's terrorism, and a task force drawn from nine federal agencies was put to work on the issue.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said recently that the administration will propose new legislation to curtail US fund-raising or other action in support of Hamas if the Justice Department can square the restrictions with the Constitution's protection of political activity.

"I think there are things that

can be done here, and that legislation will be pursued" if it becomes clear that Hamas is raising money for terrorism in the US, he said.

Federal officials said as much as 30 percent of Hamas's funding passes through the US, much of it raised from sympathizers in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

BUT EVEN if that money were cut off, officials said, there might be little immediate effect. Most of the funds go not to terrorism but to educational, medical and welfare organizations that serve Hamas's political base.

"Their terrorism is pretty low-budget stuff," one official said. "Money is not an issue. Finding their source of finance and cutting it off won't stop them."

Moreover, another official said, Hamas "is extremely independent ... [and] doesn't have to rely on any one state sponsor" for funds.

In the short run, they said, the only way to disrupt Hamas's terrorist operations will be for the PLO and Israel to hunt down the movement's military leadership.

A large part of the difficulty in suppressing Hamas's attacks

comes from the nature of the group, officials said. Hamas is a broad-based political organization of Islamic fundamentalists with thousands of supporters in the territories.

The terrorist attacks in Hamas's name are carried out by small, tightly disciplined cells that answer to a clandestine leadership that security agencies find difficult to crack, officials said.

US and Israeli counterterrorism officials have conducted an increasingly vocal debate over what part Hamas supporters in the US play in the organization's terrorist actions.

Israel has charged that the group's top leadership, main fund-raising and even its terrorist training camps are centered in the US. US officials have said heatedly that they have investigated the charges and do not believe they are true.

"That ... is definitely not supported by the facts," a senior US official said. As far as the US is concerned, Hamas's leaders are in Gaza, Judea, Samaria and Jordan.

The officials acknowledged that the FBI has found evidence of significant Hamas fund-raising in the US, but they said the government has been unable to make a clear case that any of the money is going specifically for terrorism. (Los Angeles Times)

CNN sued over female circumcision film

AN Egyptian lawyer filed suit this week against the American Cable News Network on grounds that the network was defamed by a program on female circumcision.

He is seeking \$250 million in compensation.

The case was introduced at a closed session of South Cairo Court, a civil court. It was adjourned until January to allow time to notify the network, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia.

The film, broadcast on CNN International in September, showed

the circumcision of a young girl in a Cairo neighborhood. Female circumcision is widely practiced in Egypt, despite efforts by women's groups to eradicate it.

Four people involved in the circumcision, including the barber who performed it, were later arrested and charged with harming a minor.

Lawyer Mustafa Ashoub, who filed the suit, told *The Associated Press* outside the courtroom that "the Egyptian people - and I'm one of them - felt disgusted and sick" at the CNN report.

He said it was "a crime against Egypt" because it was broadcast during the UN population conference, which Egypt hoped would showcase the nation.

Ashoub has a history of filing suits involving controversial topics which are ultimately rejected on the basis that he has no standing in the cases. In the 1980s, he filed a suit against then-president Ronald Reagan for harming relations with Egypt by diverting an Egyptian jet carrying the hijacker of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. A court threw out the lawsuit. (AP)

Palestinian rejectionists begin to coalesce



ARAB NEWS DIGEST

INTERNAL differences of opinion among Palestinians have taken new forms since the PLO was empowered in Gaza and Jericho.

Rejectionists within Fatah cannot remain within the existing organizational framework because it is acting for the conversion of the movement into a governing party.

That will happen after the by-laws of Fatah are changed and there is a congress at which the ruling group holds the majority.

Members of Hamas, the Democratic Front and others cannot join with Fatah and continue to oppose it for all its programs. They are left with no choice but to draw nearer the line of the rejectionists inside Fatah and to begin to coordinate with them.

Such processes have already taken place in Gaza and the West Bank.

Important sources in the

Fatah leadership said such coordination began during the intifada. It has now reached the level of joint cooperation "in the field."

Several members of the Central Committee of Fatah outside the territories and outside the Palestinian Authority are pushing in this direction.

Jordan's *Al-Jafr* said it did not succeed in verifying whether there was coordination in the attack in [Nahlat Shiva] Jerusalem, the kidnapping of Nahshon Wachsmann and the bus bombing in Tel Aviv, but the methods of operation bore the "footprints" of Fatah, particularly in Jerusalem.

The methods of Hamas are very different from those of Fatah in the types of weapons used and the use of explosives.

There was coordination between Fatah and other groups, regardless of the organizational affiliation of those who carried out the three attacks. Fatah leadership is aware that many cadres of such movements as the "Western Front," "Black Panthers" and "Abu Jihad Group" have turned to Hamas to continue the struggle after the Palestinian authorities denied them the possibility of doing so within the framework of Fatah.

(*Al-Jafr*, Jordan, October 26)

DR. MAHMOUD Zahar, who is close to Hamas, has said he welcomes contacts with Israel in order to prevent violence against citizens and to free prisoners.

He said Hamas welcomes all calls for dialogue without threats or the killing of civilians by Israel. He said the contacts should be in the framework of Palestinian unity and coordination between all groups, including the Palestinian Authority.

Zahar said there was an initiative by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in March 1989 which declared that Israel would withdraw from the lands captured in 1967, including Jerusalem, and these territories would be under the control of a neutral body acceptable to both sides.

The Palestinian people will choose their own representatives and will carry out their negotiations regarding all remaining problems, including those matters which Israel claims cannot be discussed.

Therefore, Zahar said, there is nothing new in the present proposal for contacts. (AP Quds, Jerusalem, October 31)

HISHAM ABDUL Razak, a leader of the Fatah movement, has denied US President Bill Clinton's claim that he received a

promise from Yasser Arafat to fight Hamas.

Abdul Razak said: "I maintain that Yasser Arafat is the authority to speak in the name of the Palestinian people, not Clinton. Clinton in the past said things which were baseless - such as when he claimed to have received information from Arafat regarding the location of the kidnapped soldier - and I maintain that he is not correct now."

Abdul Razak pointed out that dialogue with Hamas has not been broken off and that Hamas is a part of the Palestinian nation. He also said Fatah has demanded the freeing of Hamas prisoners who are not connected to violent actions.

Abdul Razak is the second PLO official to dispute Clinton's assertion. The minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, Nabil Shaath, vehemently denied to reporters in Gaza on October 28 that Arafat had promised Clinton to take measures against Hamas.

He said the subject was never raised in the meeting between Clinton and Arafat. Shaath said that, in general, the Palestinian Authority has promised Israel it would fight violence. (An-Nahar, Jerusalem, October 28)

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1993-1994

Edited by Shlomo Gazit, with Zeev Eytan

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The Erez meeting's outcome

THE meeting yesterday at the Erez checkpoint between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat marked the end of the first phase of the Oslo agreement. The introduction - the part that has come to be known as "Gaza/Jericho First" - has been declared over. The main part is about to begin.

Not that the introduction has been an unadulterated success. Since the signing of the agreement, the number of Israeli terror victims has almost tripled in comparison with other years. And it is far from clear that the Arafat regime can run the territory under its control in a way that will not endanger Israeli security.

As the "senior military officer" who testified yesterday before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee put it, it has become clear that Arafat's men are not only anti-democratic but corrupt. The reason foreign companies are reluctant to invest in the territories is that they are afraid their money will end up in officials' pockets.

But in the meeting Rabin obviously decided to take the advice of the government's doves and bolster Arafat by proceeding unconditionally with the Oslo process. As announced by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, who

accompanied Rabin to the meeting yesterday, the PLO will be given early empowerment in the spheres of welfare, health and direct taxation in Judea and Samaria within a week or two. And the "redeployment" of the army - its withdrawal from Arab towns and villages - will be negotiated and implemented as soon as possible, so that elections can be held before the middle of 1995.

Rabin's agreement to go forward despite Arafat's refusal to fight terrorism, and his commitment to grant an additional 10,000 work permits for Gazans who wish to work in Israel, are designed to bolster Arafat. Rabin has obviously rejected the assessment of the senior officer who told the Knesset committee that the purported danger to Arafat's regime is a PLO invention, aimed at achieving Israeli concessions. Moreover, Arafat is only pretending he is too weak to fight Hamas, said the officer. He has no intention of doing so.

The real test will come once the IDF begins its withdrawal in Judea and Samaria. The level of terrorist activity will influence, and perhaps determine, the fate of the agreement. If terrorism continues, it will be difficult to persuade the Israeli public that a corrupt, undemocratic and violence-prone PLO state in Judea and Samaria will bring lasting peace.

Poverty and children

POVERTY is a relative term. In the US, those described as living below the poverty line include not only the down-and-out homeless, but families that own decent homes, cars and air-conditioners - possessions that would place them in the upper strata of several African, Asian and Latin American societies. In Israel, too, poverty does not mean hunger, homelessness and total deprivation. It means that a part of the population lives in conditions far below the general standard of living.

The term is also arbitrary. In Israel, the level of poverty for 1993 has been set at a monthly income of NIS 923 per single person, NIS 1476 for a couple and NIS 2632 for a family of four. To suggest that a person earning NIS 924 a month is above the level of poverty may be a statistical truth, but it hardly conforms with reality.

In Israel there is an even more crucial area in which the statistics on poverty are misleading. Since the numbers are extrapolated from studies of towns with populations larger than 10,000, they do not take into account a majority of Israel's Arab citizens. With Israeli Arabs in the equation, the poor constitute not 15 percent of the population but almost 25%.

The most worrisome statistic emerging from the National Insurance Institute report released Monday is that the number of the relatively poor keeps growing. True, the growth was not as rapid in 1993 as in the preceding year, but this is due mostly to the reduction in immigration between 1992 and 1993. Immigrants from the CIS and Ethiopia almost automatically enter the lists of the poor and stay there during the first year or two.

That poverty has been substantially reduced among immigrants is perhaps the

brightest part of the report. It means that even though the absorption effort has not been completely satisfactory, the immigrants have managed to obtain gainful employment, albeit not necessarily in their professions.

If this century has taught the world anything, it is that to eradicate poverty completely is impossible. Socialists and other coercive utopians have only proved that egalitarian solutions do not work. Even modified welfare programs often become so burdensome on national budgets that they are discarded. But Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir believes she can help alleviate the lot of the poor and stop the growth of poverty through such programs. She would raise the minimum wage, increase child and disability allowances, and tax child allowances awarded small families that earn more than NIS 9,300 a month.

Such measures may prove helpful, at least until they prove unaffordable. But the government would do better if it concentrated on rescuing the almost 300,000 children who are now classified as poor from the cycle of poverty. If Israel wishes to avoid the development of a permanent underclass, it must make truly free education, adequate health services and challenging extra-curricular activities available to its underprivileged children.

Ultimately the only antidote for poverty is a strong economy. If the government stops subsidizing such dinosaurs as the Histadrut, the Clalit health fund, a tumbescence bureaucracy, government-owned companies, import monopolies and protected industries it would not only benefit every consumer in the country. It would have more money to spend on the education, health and welfare of the nation's most important resource, and the only one which truly deserves subsidies - its children.

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IT WAS A
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11/9/94

Sticking to your guns

GABRIEL BEN-DOR

A year and a half ago, in the wake of the wave of killings inside Israel, the territories were closed off. But the closure was quickly lifted after a while.

In March this year, following the disturbances that ensued after the Hebron massacre, a second closure was imposed, and again gradually lifted.

Immediately after last month's hideous bus bombing in Tel Aviv, a third closure was declared. This time, it was said, the government meant business.

Its leaders spoke of "separation" as a concept underlying the Israeli-Palestinian relationship, and Chief of Staff Barak hinted that the entire notion of coexistence would be re-examined.

However, the authorities soon started to lift the closure - gradually, of course. This makes no sense at all. The whole idea of having a policy is to declare a consistent set of principles and stick with it over time, until the logic of the principles yields the desired benefit.

Yet our government seems to have no policy at all on such a critical question, constantly confusing friend and foe. If it wishes to think in statesmanlike terms, it must make a strategic choice and stick to it.

Both choices - tight closure over time or an open-border policy - make sense.

A tight closure would force both Palestinian workers and their Israeli employers to wean themselves from the existing labor situation. It would motivate employers to modernize and use more efficient equipment, and to find an alternative, reliable source of labor, one with no security risks.

The Palestinians would have to find other sources of employment inside the territories governed by their own national authority, relying on inter-Arab and international aid, as well as on their own initiative and

ingenuity.

Friction between Palestinians and Israelis on the everyday level would be reduced. A possible improvement of the security situation inside Israel would make the entire relationship less fraught.

BUT THE transition would be painful and economically difficult to manage. Hence, the contrary option is also attractive.

A clear and consistent continuation of the open-border policy, and even the expansion of Palestinian employ-

Closing off the territories then opening them up makes no sense

ment inside Israel, would solidify ties between the two societies, allowing both to reap major benefits in terms of living standards.

The creation of a lot of contact might get the two peoples to know each other better and appreciate the contribution each makes to the other's economy. And allowing Palestinian society to enjoy a stable source of cash income might well reduce the forces of radicalism and fanaticism that feed on poverty and uncertainty.

When the government's policy seems fuzzy, everyone gets confused, expectations get upset, and the impression created is one of pussy-footing ad-hocism, allowing neither stable employment for the Palestinians nor clear separation from them. Needless to say, the government also undermines its own credibility.

It won't find a middle way here, because there isn't one. The logic of two mutually exclusive policies sim-

ply cannot be mixed.

I am reminded of a conversation I had with a prominent American political scientist. He told me about the attempts of the US administration under president Johnson to find a middle way between conflicting sets of advice from experts.

One half recommended bombing North Vietnam back into the Stone Age, while the other half recommended going home, since the US, in their opinion, had nothing substantial at stake in Vietnam at the time.

Unable to choose between the two options, Johnson and his people sought a compromise - neither going home, nor using all their military might to win the war.

The result was a senseless and tragic adventure, leading to the worst military outcome in American history.

Our government's tendency to mix the logic of two possible options may well leave Israel with no policy at all, and no chance of enjoying the dividends it could derive from either total closure, or open borders.

A choice has to be made, it has to be enunciated in public, and its consequences suffered, if it has been carefully thought out.

Further equivocation can only exacerbate emotions that are already heated. It will undermine the economies of both sides and have a negative effect on peace and security.

So, Mr. Rabin, continue the closure by all means - if you intend to stick to it. But if you don't have the determination to employ it as a consistent, tough policy over a long time, don't even mention it as a serious option.

The writer is professor of political science at Haifa University and director of the graduate studies program at the National Defense College.

Brains test

MARCUS GOLDSTEIN

BARBARA Vobejda, reviewing *The Bell Curve* by Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray ("Controversy rekindled - intelligence and race," *The Jerusalem Post*, October 24) says the book argues that black Americans score lower than whites in IQ tests essentially because of genetic differences. In other words, that it equates innate intelligence with race.

This viewpoint isn't new. It has long been espoused by fervid hereditarians.

The same issue of the *Post* carries an article by E.J. Dionne, Jr. of *The Washington Post*, titled "Race and IQ: Stale Notions." But it provides no facts to refute the claims of Herrnstein, a psychologist, and Murray, a social scientist.

Some factual information on the IQ "argument" is relevant here, in view of its broad social and educational implications.

A leading source on the subject is *The Mismeasure of Man*, by Stephen

IQ tests are unreliable in pinpointing gifted youngsters

Jay Gould, professor of biology and geology at Harvard.

Giving a detailed history of the "Hereditarian theory of the IQ," Gould relates how French psychologist Alfred Binet developed the IQ test shortly after the turn of the century, but never intended it to be used to measure innate intelligence. In fact, Gould notes, he cautioned against such usage.

According to Binet, the IQ was only a rough, empirical guide constructed for a limited, practical purpose - to "identify those children whose lack of success in normal classroom work suggested the need for some form of special education."

Gould also cites British psychologist Cyril Burt, a leading exponent of IQ tests in schools. Burt emphasized social class rather than race in regard to potential achievement. But after his death, clear evidence was uncovered showing that he had used fraudulent data to support his views.

As Gould observes, there is no question that variability in intelligence among children does exist. But, as he also notes, hereditarians view children's intelligence "measured by the IQ test" to be "markers of permanent, inborn limits," whereas for anti-hereditarians, like Binet, the role of IQ tests was "to identify and help, emphasizing the power of creative education to increase the achievements of all children..."

WHERE RACE or ethnicity is concerned, it may be remembered that during World War I, black recruits in the northern American states had higher median IQ scores than whites in the southern states, clearly suggesting that socioeconomic and educational opportunities were significant determinants in IQ scores.

Because IQ tests are widely used in schools here and abroad to evaluate intelligence and potential ability or achievement, educators should consider the findings cited by Samuel Strauss in *The Gifted and Non-Gifted*.

Strauss interviewed 7,000 successful PhDs, including biologists, physicists and social scientists, and professors in universities in the US and Europe. He also examined their scholastic records.

One of his many important findings was that two-thirds of them had scored below the level of anyone's definition of "gifted" as measured by IQ tests; practically two-thirds had been below the top fifth of their high-school graduation class; and a few had IQ scores below 100 and were presumably of below normal intelligence.

Attaining the "pinnacle of academic success" - a PhD and a career in research - Strauss believes, was in major part the result of "temperament," which he defines as "possession of the trait of perseverance."

In this writer's opinion, the right social and economic circumstances can also be helpful. All this would seem to have special relevance in Israel - not merely with respect to over-reliance on the IQ score as a measure of intelligence and potential ability, but also perhaps to prevent separating presumably "gifted" children from the "average."

The writer is an associate professor at Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine.

POSTSCRIPT

A HOSTAGE-taking, knife-wielding terrorist was shot dead in a shoot-out - all to save the life of a pussycat.

Police in Gresham, Oregon, killed a woman who was holding her cat at knifepoint in a grocery store. The woman came into the store with her Siamese cat and a knife and sat down in an aisle.

Officers asked the woman to drop the knife and she began threatening to kill the cat. Police sprayed her with pepper mace but she charged them, they opened fire, she dropped the cat and died.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEACE NOT NOW

Sir, - Two interesting formulations around peace.

President Clinton complimented our leaders for exposing their people to "terrific risks" for the sake of peace. The president and his audience (all of us who will have to live under the shadow of those "terrific risks") probably did not grasp the obvious contradiction in terms: Isn't the removal of "terrific risks" the essence of "peace" also its precondition?

Putting it differently we should be grateful to the president for warning us the only peace we can expect for trading our homeland is a peace of "terrific risks!"

On Israeli TV Professor Javetz replaced the slogan "Peace Now" with "Peace Not Now." Let there be no mistake: The professor is strongly in favor of Oslo (consequently Palestinian statehood) - but peace in ex-

change for all our sacrifices, "not now." Why so? Because both peoples, the Jews and the Palestinians, are mentally disturbed and the process of healing may last a very long time. So, Javetz sends us into the market to pay the full price with our ancestral homeland... for no merchandise at all.

If no more "land for peace," so from now on - what? Land for terror? It seems so, now that it is abundantly clear that terror will continue to rage in spite of all concessions made by us. And this with the connivance of our "peace partner," the PLO. So Professor Javetz tries now to reconcile the poor Israeli Jews and reconciliation them to a new slogan: "Land for Peace-not-Now."

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI
Kiryat Arba.

"DEAR RUTHIE"

Sir, - The appropriate response to "Desperate Dreamer," *Dear Ruthie*, October 27, should have been to seek professional help. For someone who feels that she "cannot go on living," "hobbies or entertainment" just won't do.

Armchair advice to desperate people often results in failed suicide attempts, with their concomitant plagias and injuries, or worse - in death. Sometimes, "the passage of time"

only intensifies the feeling that life has "no meaning" if the problem is not addressed promptly and correctly.

While Ms. Blum's column is occasionally entertaining and witty, loss of meaning in one's life is not to be addressed in the same vein as forgetting one's mother-in-law's birthday.

NINA ZELDIS
Rehabilitation Psychologist
Tel Aviv.

CLINTON'S SPEECH

Sir, - I refer to Susan Hattis Rofe's article of October 31, "The Clinton show." There was no need for her to analyze President Clinton's speech to the Knesset. His speech came at a time when Israel was recovering from the recent horrors of the terrorist attacks. It was a speech of positive values. It encouraged and pleased us. If just made us feel good. It was what we needed. We didn't sell our souls away by accepting his speech wholeheartedly.

There was no need for President Clinton to mention the Palestinians in this speech. They had their day on the White House lawn.

It was irrelevant whether President Clinton was spontaneous or not. There is a time and place for intellectualizing and probing. This was not the time.

ROSE JONAS
Jerusalem.

VICTIMS OF PEACE

Sir, - I think you should add to the hundred Israelis who have been killed by terrorists since the fateful handshake on the White House lawn also the hundred people who were killed in the Jewish Community Center outrage in Buenos Aires.

GABRIEL H. COHEN
Ramat Gan.

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Hiss-and-tell biographers: Custodians of greatness

Ian Hamilton looks at dirty laundry and letters stashed in laundry baskets, Victoria Glendinning writes

KEEPERS OF THE FLAME: Literary Estates and the Rise of Biography by Ian Hamilton. Faber & Faber. 344 pp. \$24.95.

WHAT is posterity? Nothing but "an unending jostle of vanities, appetites and fears," concludes Ian Hamilton at the end of a book that is quite surprisingly entertaining and suggestive. One might not suppose that a work subtitled *Literary Estates and the Rise of Biography* would give one cause to laugh aloud, but it does.

Hamilton is a British poet, an editor and himself the biographer of Robert Lowell and, notoriously, of J.D. Salinger (well, he tried).

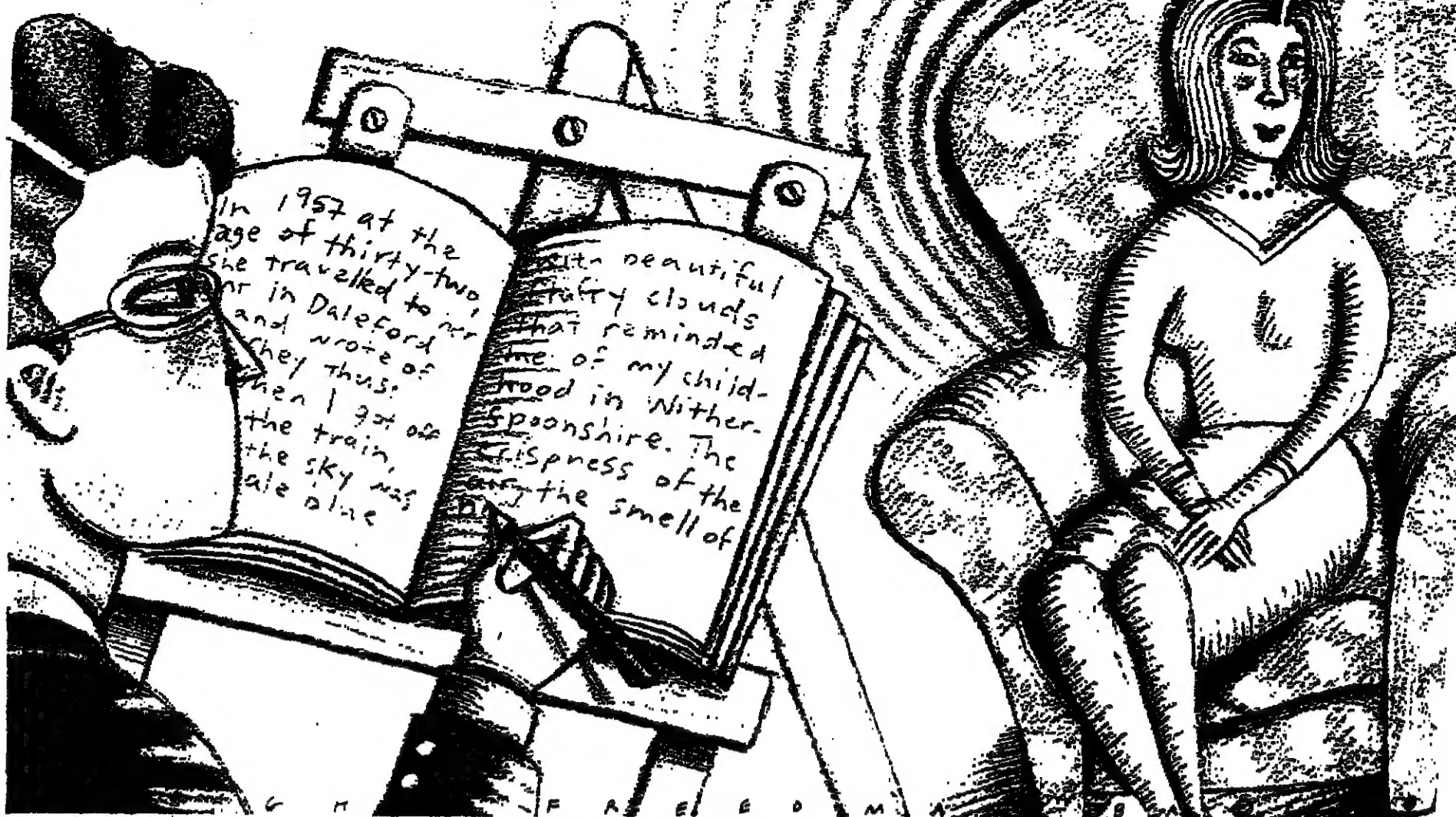
For all his scholarship, he writes here with the immediacy, economy and ease of a witty man talking over a bottle of wine.

The "keepers of the flame" are the friends, relations, devotees, literary executors and biographers, in whose hands lies what Hamilton calls the "after-life" of great writers. We live in an era of copious, candid, and some would say intrusive, biography.

The questions Hamilton addresses about the history and ethics of the genre were never more topical. "How much should a biographer tell? How much should an executor suppress? And what would the biographer have wanted - do we know?"

He proceeds chronologically, by means of case histories, each marking some change or development in the perceived function of the custodians of greatness. This leads us into the history of publishing and of the law on copyright, into the company of some egregious crooks and creeps, and into some stimulatingly unprovable statements from Hamilton.

The poet and priest John Donne (d. 1631), for example, was "the first" important writer to leave a substantial collection of letters, and his "no-good" son was "the first" to see that there was money to be made from a literary parent's writings.



Edmund Curll, the 18th-century publisher, was "the first" to cash in on scurrilous instant biographies. Robert Burns was "the first" to have his frailties exposed by a biographer (he drank himself to death).

Just occasionally, Hamilton is wrong. He writes that Thackeray's daughter "vetted all thoughts of a biography," thus fueling speculation about skeletons in cupboards; in fact, she commissioned Trollope to write a book about her father, which he did. Admittedly, she gave him very little material to work on.

The book is full of details about cabinets and laundry baskets of letters and manuscripts falling into greedy hands or being used as wrapping paper for groceries.

Keepers of the flame tended to be self-appointed. The poet Andrew Marvell's landlady posed as his wife in order to get money owed to his estate. Sir William Davenport wanted people to think that he was Shakespeare's illegitimate son. Thomas Hardy had the bright idea of controlling his afterlife by ghosting his own biography, ostensibly authored by his second wife.

THE BOOK is free from academic pedantry. Hamilton remarks that Johnson's life of Dryden contains "the funniest and crudest" of the "many wildly improbable" accounts of Dryden's funeral, quoting none of them, and thus whetting the reader's desire to find out more.

Likewise, he writes of William Warburton, the adviser and editor of Alexander Pope, that Pope guided him to a rich wife "and then (via her very rich uncle) to a bishopric and a palatial estate." Most scholars would have ruined their narrative flow by dutifully identifying, if only in a footnote, the "very rich uncle." Not Ian Hamilton. His pace and semi-satirical tone extract the maximum entertainment value from pompous literary mayhem. He writes with informed malice about the frequent rivalry between a dead author's self-aggrandizing "best friends" as to who is the true keeper of the flame. Disciples are often catty about co-disciples.

One reviewer of *The Life of*

Dickens by his friend and champion John Forster complained that it "should not be called *The Life of Dickens* but *The History of Dickens's Relations to Mr. Forster*." Yet Forster was cavalier about his hero's materials. He chopped extracts out of Dickens's letters (discarding the tattered remains) and pasted them into his manuscript, which was thrown away afterwards by the printers.

Boswell was the most successful flame-keeper of all time, making the relationship between subject and biographer the central pillar of his *Life of Dr. Johnson*, to the extent that Boswell is now a more lively commercial proposition than Johnson himself.

They believed in "definitive" biography in the past, and possessive jealousy such as John Forster's found destruction preferable to the gaze of alien eyes. John Cam Hobhouse, neurotically possessive about the late Lord Byron, engineered the burning of his idol's autobiography, unread, because it had been shown to Tom Moore and not to him. Hobhouse was uneasy lest there be something uncomplimentary about

himself in it.

When Henry James was given a private view of Byron's scandalous private papers he was so appalled that he went home and destroyed 40 years' accumulation of his own correspondence, manuscripts and notebooks, expressing an "utter and absolute abhorrence" of any biography of himself. And what was the upshot? Leon Edel's five-volume *Life of Henry James*, and four volumes of letters.

HENRY JAMES did not have much to hide, or else it remains hidden. He is an exception. Readers are sometimes shocked when they discover that authors whose books they admire were less than admirable in private life.

Hamilton poses the most difficult question that biographers and critics must address: "Does poetic genius excuse or mitigate bad conduct; does should knowing about the life have a bearing on how we read the work?"

In the 19th century, most spouses and devotees thought it their duty to suppress all evidence of "bad conduct." Biographers

worked "to the sound of snipping scissors and paper crackling in the grate.... After the funeral would come the slamming of doors, the scrubbing of marble and then, within two years or so, the emergence of what Gladstone called a reticence in three volumes." George Eliot's reputation for unrelenting high seriousness was largely established by her widow's cutting out of jokes and familiar turns of speech out of her published letters and journals.

The problems remain much the same today. The biographer of a modern subject is caught between wanting to tell "the truth" and the need to maintain good relations with informants and access to the archive. The eternal dispute, as identified by Henry James, between "the public and the private, between curiosity and delicacy" may have been resolved to Kitty Kelley's satisfaction, but it still exercises most biographers.

Coming to our own time, Hamilton is sharp about the costiveness of T.S. Eliot's widow in publishing his letters and declining to authorize a biography, while she allows Eliot's words to be mixed with

Trevor Nunn's in the song "Memory" in the lucrative show *Cats*; Hamilton pays tribute to Peter Ackroyd's subtly "widow-proof" account of Eliot's life. Yet he shows sympathy with Ted Hughes who, as he writes, cannot even destroy any of his own private papers without being accused of interfering with "Plath Studies."

This book was first published in Britain two years ago - before the very pertinent furor caused by the publication of the biography of Philip Larkin by Andrew Motion and of Larkin's letters, before the contentious overview of the saga of the Plath biographies by Janet Malcolm in the *New Yorker*, before the proposal for a new and draconian "Privacy Bill" in Britain, and before it was decided the 50-year copyright period should be increased in Britain to 70 years. In the interests of harmonization within the European Union. It would have been helpful, in the American edition, to have had an afterword on these matters.

Hamilton's own position is that writers must, in the first instance, be their own keepers of the flame: in other words, having read this review, you should at once burn all your diaries and love letters. Or not. As Isaac Walton wrote in the 17th century, a wish for self-perpetuation is "rooted in the very nature of man."

But you should never, Hamilton thinks, burn anyone else's private papers. Larkin in his last illness requested that his diaries be destroyed. His friend Monica Jones shredded the 25 volumes within hours of his death. She did not have to. However vehement the wishes of the deceased in this regard, you are not by (British) law obliged to fulfill them.

There are evidently still moral imperatives stronger than the tug of literary history or the law of the land. But there's little any author can do about eliminating indiscreet letters written to other people; they are probably already in the Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin anyway, nicely filed and catalogued. Only the law of copyright, and a stalwart keeper of the flame, can protect you.

On the evidence of this book, writers should choose the keepers of their flame very carefully indeed. As Dryden wrote to his young protégé, the playwright Congreve: Be kind to my remains; and oh defend Against Your Judgment Your departed Friend! (Los Angeles Times)

The reviewer is a biographer, whose books include *Vita: A Life of Vita Sackville-West (Morrow)* and *Anthony Trollope (Alfred A. Knopf)*.

Bad year for brides

NANCY MAYER
TOKYO

THE year 1966 came, and Japan's birthrate began dropping precipitously. By year's end, it had fallen by one-fourth, a drop normally associated with war, famine or epidemic.

The reason for the one-year plunge: According to Chinese zodiac-based folklore, girls born that year would grow up strong and powerful, even ferocious.

In Japan, where femininity is often equated with the dainty, demure and decorative, these girls were seen as a kind of demographic time bomb - women warriors in waiting.

Couples worried that with a birthright like that, daughters brought into the world in 1966 would never find husbands. So many put off having children.

Only 1.3 million babies were born in 1966, compared with 1.8m. in 1965 and 1.9m. in 1967.

The girls of 1966 are now women aged 27 or 28. Despite parental fears, marriage rates for these women are in line with those of the general population. Still, discrimination does exist.

Chieko Hayashi, 28, was incredulous when she was rejected sight unseen by a potential suitor after he learned her birth date.

"I would rather not meet him if he is particular about those things," she said.

The superstition also has subtler legacies. Some 1966-born women say that because of the aggressive image associated with their birth year, they tread carefully in male-dominated Japan.

Hiroko Ijima, a 28-year-old translator, said that after she learned as a child about the superstition, she consciously cultivated a calm, gentle demeanor.

Tamami Akashi, another 1966 baby, remembers her fear when she first heard females born that year would become domineering.

"I really wondered whether I would grow up to murder my husband!" said Akashi, who married this year.

THE SUPERSTITION surrounding 1966 births is derived from the Chinese zodiac. Every 60 years comes the "hinoeuma" year, its



Children in traditional dress at a Tokyo shrine; the traditional belief that the year of one's birth affects one's personality will influence marital prospects for some girls. (UPI)

written characters combining the powerful elements of horse and fire, overlaid with dominance or forcefulness.

In Japan, the "hinoeuma" year was long viewed with particular

dread because it was believed to foretell house fires, a disastrous event in a country of close-packed wooden structures. Over time, it came to be considered a general portent of bad luck, espe-

cially for girl babies.

In the lifetimes of the current crop of "hinoeuma" women, social standards have changed in Japan. In the booming 1980s, women began earning more money,

postponing marriage and traveling abroad.

Even so, many Japanese women feel bound by rigid expectations. And the lingering recession has sharply eroded their position in the workplace.

Those born in 1966 do have one advantage, which applies to both men and women. Because of the drop in the birthrate, they found it easier to get into good colleges and find jobs.

But even that was a mixed blessing for Ijima, the translator. She said a male coworker taunted her, saying she would not have been hired if she faced the tougher competition in a normal year.

The "hinoeuma" superstition is not the only old custom to affect the lives of women in modern Japan.

Elders of Japan's national sport, sumo wrestling, do not permit women to set foot in the ring.

Under the teachings of Shinto, the country's indigenous religion, their presence would defile a sacred place.

Women have also been barred

from ribbon-cutting ceremonies at tunnels because of an age-old superstition that they would arouse the jealousy of the mountain goddess and bring disaster. That same taboo applies to fishing boats, where a woman's presence is believed to bring bad luck.

Jennifer Robertson, a University of Michigan anthropologist and Japan specialist, said that even superstitions no one believes in still exert a strong influence, because people worry about what others will think if they defy custom.

"These practices, within the guise of tradition, have persisted in Japan as a form of sexist discrimination," she said.

Tetsuo Shinobu, a man who went through school with girls born in 1966, said he believes Japanese society is more accepting these days of stronger women - at least on the job.

But he said he wouldn't want to marry someone who challenged his opinions too much.

"I'd sometimes have to go along with her," he said. "That's not what I want." (Associated Press)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994

Harish: Europe must open markets for updated FTA

THE government will oppose concluding negotiations to update its free trade agreement with the European Union by the end of the year should the Europeans refuse to significantly open their markets, Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish said yesterday.

Harish yesterday met with European Commission director-general of economic external relations Juan Prat, who is visiting Israel. Harish told him that although the agreement is of great political importance, he will oppose concluding it by the target date if it fails to substantially reduce the \$7 billion trade gap with the EU.

Harish raised the issue of the EU's refusal to open their government telecommunications procurement to Israeli firms.

By contrast, he pointed out, the Israeli government and its companies buy hundreds of millions of

dollars of European energy, health, and telecommunication goods every year.

Harish recently warned that should the Europeans continue blocking Israeli access to government procurement, Israel will retaliate by closing the European's access to government contracts here.

He said he would consider taking away access to government contracts for power generating equipment products from German firms, such as Siemens and ABB.

Harish pointed out that not only are the Europeans refusing access to Israeli firms, but they are demanding Israeli concessions in return for the loosening of restrictions.

Harish said their attitude stands in stark contrast to the current ne-

gotiations' aim of helping close the substantial trade gap Israel has with the EU.

Harish also criticized the Europeans' rigid stand limiting imports of Israeli processed foods.

The EU is not willing to expand the quotas on processed tomatoes and citrus fruits and have refused to give preferential treatment to turkey meat products and frozen corn, products which, if originating in Eastern Europe, are accorded such treatment.

Harish noted the European's unwillingness to stop discriminating against Israeli raw textile products, which unlike European raw products, are subject to full import tariffs, when they are sewn in Eastern Europe.

Harish also took exception at Israel's standing at the European

industrial research and development projects, which is not appropriate to the country's development and technological standing, since it has not been accorded full member status.

The ministry's Chief Scientist Shuki Gleitman left yesterday with Science Ministry director general Zvi Yannai to Brussels to discuss lowering Israel's membership fee of \$29 million and to insure the country's participation in the main research and development decision bodies.

Harish also voiced concern regarding the entrance of Sweden and Austria into the European Union at the beginning of next year, since without immediate transitional arrangements Israeli food exports could be hurt.

Prat promised Harish to deal with these issues immediately upon his return to Brussels.

CAUTIOUS motorists should keep their gas tanks filled at all times, as a strike looms possible over the impasse between fuel sector workers and management.

A meeting between the representatives of workers unions and managements of Paz, Sonol, and Delek at the Knesset Economic Committee yesterday was unable to break the deadlock.

Employees declared a work dispute on Monday after the companies announced they will revoke the collective agreements.

"This was an emergency session to prepare the national economy for a general strike of the oil sector workers, which seems inevitable at the moment," said Paz union spokesman Adam Baruch.

The immediate concern of the committee was to minimize the disruption to the general public which a general fuel strike would cause.

Paz union: Strike in oil sector inevitable

RACHEL NEIMAN

The committee called for negotiations, said Baruch, who said the committee stressed that any agreement reached should be a collective one.

Committee chairman Amir Peretz said the market was headed for a general fuel strike.

A fuel strike would paralyze the nation within a few days. While the workers would most likely agree to supply fuel to the Defense Ministry, all power stations - with the exception of the coal-fueled station in Hadera - would come to a grinding halt.

Gas stations, which are normally refueled twice a day, would be emptied quickly should the general public become panic-stricken.

Baruch expressed regret at the situation, adding that a senior staff member of Paz was fired yesterday, "which further proves our

point that personal contracts offer no protection."

The Gas Station Owners Association were also at the meeting to make a plea for their battle against the major fuel companies.

As part of market reform, the owners want to shorten the length of the leases existing between them and the fuel companies. Currently leases are long term (49 years) and are automatically renewed, leaving owners without the option to transfer to another company.

The Owners Association said fuel companies were either refusing to talk or, in the case of Paz, had halted talks to buy time.

"With talks between the oil companies and gas station owners stalled, the oil companies have embarked on a new crusade to take over the gas stations," said Ya'akov Gazit of the Owners Association.

Gal: Access of Bezek competitors to services must be set up before privatization approved

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee will not approve the privatization of Bezek until clear rules are set down to govern how competitors will be given access to its communications services, committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) warned yesterday.

Gal also demanded that Bezek set up a subsidiary for its international calling business before privatization. This would enable competitors to operate on a more equal footing.

Gal made his remarks during a committee discussion on the Communications Ministry's 1995 budget.

Ministry director-general Shlomo Wachs told the committee that the second licensed cellular telephone operator, Cellcom, will begin operations on December 27 - with rates some 80 percent lower, on average, than those now being charged by the Motorola-Bezek consortium.

The ministry will publish the principles governing its planned tender for a second international calling company in December, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni added. The tender itself, she said, will hopefully be published in March, but certainly by June at the latest.

Since the publication of Bezek's new general license, the ministry has issued more than 30 licenses for various communications services, Aloni said.

Wachs told the committee that the monthly service charge levied by Bezek is still too low to cover the company's actual costs.

The ministry's goal, he said, is to gradually raise this fee and eliminate the subsidy it is currently giving

Bezek approves five-year plan

JUDY SIEGEL

BEZEK's board of directors yesterday approved a five-year business plan, permitting the company to invest NIS 9 billion in building new telecommunications infrastructure by the end of the century.

The country's phone system, now 80 percent digitalized, will be completely digital in only two years.

The plan deals with company policy in the fields of investments, rates, competition, organization, manpower, and quality of service, according to a Bezek statement.

During this period, the company will start several new services, such as integrated services digital network (ISDN, in which pictures, text and sound are transmitted over a single phone line) and others that bring entertainment and education into the home.

The board also authorized the establishment of a subsidiary for international dialing and the reduction of rates. Management was empowered to reduce manpower and increase efficiency, at a ratio of three staffers for every 1,000 phone lines, instead of the current 4.9.

ing local calls via higher prices for services, such as international calls.

Gal said the committee would hold a discussion on this issue before the next planned rise in the service charge, even though it does not require the committee's approval.



The Hasira interchange in Herzliya was inaugurated yesterday at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (center), Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer (left) and Public Works Department director general Zion Salman (right). (Yossi Cohen/Scoop 80)

Sears gives up tower in refinancing deal

CHICAGO (AP) - Sears Tower will change hands but not names. Sears, Roebuck and Co. said its name will remain a part of the world's tallest office building even after ownership of the 110-story landmark is transferred to a Boston-based investment group.

Sears, which announced the deal to restructure the building's financing on Monday, will keep its corporate headquarters in the tower under a lease that expires in the year 2000.

The black steel-and-glass monolith in downtown Chicago was designed by American architect Fazlur Khan and completed in 1973. It is 436 meters tall, topping the World Trade Center in New York City by 26 meters.

The agreement to transfer ownership to a pension fund partnership managed by Boston-based Aldrich, Eastman and Wallich will reduce Sears' debt by \$850 million, Sears said. The retail company will record a \$195m. gain in the fourth quarter, after taxes, as a result of the transaction.

The deal resolves a financial problem caused by a drop in commercial property values since Sears remortgaged the tower nearly five years ago.

The building is a drag on Sears' balance sheet, because its current worth of about \$400m. is less than half the value of the loans it secures, according to Jim Dorsey, Midwest regional president of Koll Inc., a commercial real-estate company.

In 1992, Sears vacated 180,000 square meters in the tower when it moved its retailing division to suburban Hoffman Estates. About 162,000 square meters have since been leased.

Agency to receive 2.25% of shares in El Al for 15.56% of voting rights

HAIM SHAPIRO and JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Jewish Agency will receive 2.25 percent of the shares of El Al in exchange for 15.56 percent of the company's voting rights it now holds, the agency reported yesterday.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Hanan Ben-Yehuda said the agreement to exchange the voting rights for the shares was made with the Finance Ministry in preparation for the expected privatization of the company.

He said that as El Al has been valued at between \$400 million and \$600m., the shares would thus be worth about \$10m.

Earlier this year, the agency demanded 4% of El Al shares and 15.4% of voting rights. This led Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani to ask the cabinet privatization committee to empower the finance minister to take legal action to remove the obstacles put up by the agency.

To turn El Al into a publicly traded company, the government is required to offer only one type of stock to comply with local and US securities regulations. As long as the agency was holding on to its special shares, it would impede the privatization of El Al.

The Treasury rejected the agency's demand for 4% of the shares after the company is privatized, since the agency only holds 0.02% of the company's shares.

Ben-Yehuda said he has maintained a policy of getting out of economic companies which have no direct relation to the organization's functions.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kleinman said the company itself had had no part in this decision, which was made by the Finance Ministry and the Transport Minister, together with the Government Corporations Authority.

It was for these bodies, he said, to clear all obstacles in preparation for the sale of the airline.

Teva reports 25% jump in net profits

TEVA's third quarter net profits jumped 25 percent to \$17.46 million from \$13.9m. in the same period last year, the company reported yesterday.

Revenues rose to \$143.47m. from \$127.24m., while quarterly earnings per share went up to \$3.17 from \$2.58.

Net profits for the nine-month period ending September 30 were equally impressive, rising to \$52.6m. from \$41.3m. Earnings per share fell to \$7.65 from \$9.70.

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COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

• Elbit reported a 7% rise in third quarter net profits to \$10.27m. from \$9.58m. in the same period last year.

Revenues rose 19% to \$170.6m. from \$143.7m. Earnings per share went up to \$0.55 from \$0.52.

Nine-month net profits dropped 6% to \$27.3m. from \$29.1m., while earnings per share fell to \$1.47 from \$1.57.

• Elscint announced a drop in third quarter net profits to \$3.2m. from \$5.88m. in the corresponding quarter last year.

Revenues fell to \$59m. from \$60.4m., while earnings per share decreased to \$0.04 from \$0.07.

• Teledata Communications has reported a decrease in net profits and revenues for the third quarter and the first nine months of the year.

Third quarter net profits fell to \$138,168 from \$2.68m. Revenues dropped to \$5.7m.

from \$9.9m., while earnings per share plummeted to \$0.01 from \$0.26.

Nine-month period net profits dropped to \$4.6m. from \$7.1m. Revenues fell to \$24m. from \$26.1m.

• Lannet Data Communications announced an 80% jump in third quarter net profits to \$1.9m. from \$1.06m. in the same period last year.

Revenues went up to \$18m. from \$13.5m., while quarterly earnings per share increased to \$0.18 from \$0.10.

Net profits for the first three quarters of the year went up to \$4.3m. from \$2.2m. Revenues rose 41% to \$49.72m. from \$35.1m., while earnings per share almost doubled to \$0.40 from \$0.21.

• Aladdin Knowledge Systems posted a jump in third quarter net profits to \$542,000 from \$247,000 in the comparable period last year.

Net profits for the nine month period ending September 30 went up to \$1.6m. from the \$800,000 posted in the parallel period last year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel to participate in building new McDonnell Douglas plane: McDonnell Douglas Corp. yesterday named international partner firms, including building its new 100-seat commuter plane, the MD-95, designed to be the cleanest and quietest in its class. One of the partners is Israel's SHL Servo Systems. The new aircraft's components will be developed in the US, Germany, Britain, Italy, Korea, Japan and Israel, and final assembly will be in Dallas. The MD-95 is targeted for short-to medium-range flights and McDonnell Douglas plans to deliver them to airlines in 1998. AP

Elco given consent for Shekem deal: Monopolies Supervisor Yoram Turbowicz eliminated the last hurdle standing in the way of completing the sale of a controlling 35 percent stake in Shekem to Elco by giving his consent to the deal, the Treasury reported yesterday.

Turbowicz reviewed the anti-trust ramifications of the deal at the request of Deputy Industry and Trade Minister Mascha Lubelsky, given Elco's ownership of a 33% share in Sensor, an electrical products chain. The sale now requires the approval of the finance minister and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Site approved for free export processing zone: Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday adopted the Free Export Processing Zones Council's recommendation to locate the Free Export Processing Zone in Likit, east of Beersheba.

The land is available and ready for sale by the Israel Lands Administration. Under the law, the zone will be run as a concession following a competitive bid. Businesses locating in the zone will be entitled to a complete tax exemption for 20 years. In addition, all bureaucratic processes will be streamlined into a one-step, one-stop administrative center.

Ministry allows flower imports: The Agriculture Ministry has approved import of chrysanthemums and roses from Holland. Until recently the Authority for Protection of Plants restricted the import of these flowers to prevent introduction of disease from Holland to Israel.

The ministry said the chrysanthemum imports are subject to Holland's agreement to ease export restrictions on flowers from Israel. The ministry has asked Holland to increase Israel's flower quotas which are exempt from tax to 30,000 tons per year from 18,000 tons. Today, Israeli flower exports to Europe reach 28,000 tons per year.

Mizrahi provident funds show losses: United Mizrahi Bank's provident funds achieved negative real yields of between 0.5% and 1.3% in October. United Mizrahi Bank's Atid reported a real negative yield of 0.57% in October and a negative real return of 9.26% since the start of the year.

Hapoalim offers new dollar-linked savings plan: Bank Hapoalim announced it is offering a new dollar-linked savings plan. Dollar Mark Rate offers savers full linkage to the dollar plus three percent interest at the end of the saving period. The bank is offering savers a dollar-linked bonus equal to 18% of the accumulated sum saved if the dollar remains in the 1.35 - 1.7 mark-to-dollar exchange rate during the saving period.

FIBI offers free life insurance for NIS 10,000 deposit: First International Bank announced it is offering free life insurance over a 10-year period to customers depositing a minimum sum of NIS 10,000 in its provident funds.

Large-scale import of Waterman pens begins: A & J Eliahu Ltd. of Tel Aviv yesterday launched the first large-scale import and sale of Waterman pens here. It expects the famous name brand to capture between 10 percent and 15% of the high-quality pen market within a year.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.11.94)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.00	5.00	5.00
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.50	4.50	4.50
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.00	4.00	4.00
U.S. dollar (\$25,000)	3.50	3.50	3.50
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	3.00	3.00	3.00
U.S. dollar (\$5,000)	2.50	2.50	2.50
U.S. dollar (\$2,500)	2.00	2.00	2.00
U.S. dollar (\$1,000)	1.50	1.50	1.50
U.S. dollar (\$500)	1.00	1.00	1.00
U.S. dollar (\$250)	0.50	0.50	0.50
U.S. dollar (\$100)	0.25	0.25	0.25
U.S. dollar (\$50)	0.125	0.125	0.125
U.S. dollar (\$25)	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625
U.S. dollar (\$10)	0.03125	0.03125	0.03125
U.S. dollar (\$5)	0.015625	0.015625	0.015625
U.S. dollar (\$2.50)	0.0078125	0.0078125	0.0078125
U.S. dollar (\$1.00)	0.00390625	0.00390625	0.00390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.50)	0.001953125	0.001953125	0.001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.25)	0.0009765625	0.0009765625	0.0009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.10)	0.000390625	0.000390625	0.000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.05)	0.0001953125	0.0001953125	0.0001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.025)	0.00009765625	0.00009765625	0.00009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.01)	0.0000390625	0.0000390625	0.0000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.005)	0.00001953125	0.00001953125	0.00001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.0025)	0.000009765625	0.000009765625	0.000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.001)	0.00000390625	0.00000390625	0.00000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0005)	0.000001953125	0.000001953125	0.000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.00025)	0.0000009765625	0.0000009765625	0.0000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0001)	0.000000390625	0.000000390625	0.000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00005)	0.0000001953125	0.0000001953125	0.0000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.000025)	0.00000009765625	0.00000009765625	0.00000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00001)	0.0000000390625	0.0000000390625	0.0000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000005)	0.00000001953125	0.00000001953125	0.00000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000025)	0.000000009765625	0.000000009765625	0.000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000001)	0.00000000390625	0.00000000390625	0.00000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000005)	0.000000001953125	0.000000001953125	0.000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000025)	0.0000000009765625	0.0000000009765625	0.0000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000001)	0.000000000390625	0.000000000390625	0.000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000005)	0.0000000001953125	0.0000000001953125	0.0000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000025)	0.00000000009765625	0.00000000009765625	0.00000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000001)	0.0000000000390625	0.0000000000390625	0.0000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000005)	0.00000000001953125	0.00000000001953125	0.00000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000025)	0.000000000009765625	0.000000000009765625	0.000000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000001)	0.00000000000390625	0.00000000000390625	0.00000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000005)	0.000000000001953125	0.000000000001953125	0.000000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000000025)	0.0000000000009765625	0.0000000000009765625	0.0000000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000001)	0.000000000000390625	0.000000000000390625	0.000000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000000005)	0.0000000000001953125	0.0000000000001953125	0.0000000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000000025)	0.00000000000009765625	0.00000000000009765625	0.00000000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000000001)	0.0000000000000390625	0.0000000000000390625	0.0000000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000000005)	0.00000000000001953125	0.00000000000001953125	0.00000000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000000025)	0.000000000000009765625	0.000000000000009765625	0.000000000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.000000000001)	0.00000000000000390625	0.00000000000000390625	0.00000000000000390625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000000005)	0.000000000000001953125	0.000000000000001953125	0.000000000000001953125
U.S. dollar (\$0.00000000000025)	0.0000000000000009765625	0.0000000000000009765625	0.0000000000000009765625
U.S. dollar (\$0.0000000000001)	0.000000000000000390625	0.000000000000000390625	0.00000000000

מכאן לאחור

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 2.9960	-0.27%
Sterling	NIS 4.8348	-0.41%
Mark	NIS 1.9790	-0.20%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrial	2602.74	+0.37
DJ Transport	1401.82	-0.24
DJ Comp.	1701.28	+0.36
NYSE Index	2602.74	+0.37
NYSE Transp.	1401.82	-0.24
NYSE Comp.	1701.28	+0.36
S&P 500	2602.74	+0.37
Dow Jones	2602.74	+0.37

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3061.5	-0.2
Nikkei 225	10000	-0.3
Hong Kong Hang Seng	9418.00	-18.72
London FTSE	11254	-0.2

Israeli stocks in NY

Am. Tel. & Tel.	14.00	+0.10
Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05

INFLATION

US CPI	1.00	+0.05
US PPI	1.00	+0.05
US GDP	1.00	+0.05
US M2	1.00	+0.05
US M3	1.00	+0.05
US M4	1.00	+0.05
US M5	1.00	+0.05
US M6	1.00	+0.05
US M7	1.00	+0.05
US M8	1.00	+0.05
US M9	1.00	+0.05
US M10	1.00	+0.05
US M11	1.00	+0.05
US M12	1.00	+0.05
US M13	1.00	+0.05
US M14	1.00	+0.05
US M15	1.00	+0.05
US M16	1.00	+0.05
US M17	1.00	+0.05
US M18	1.00	+0.05
US M19	1.00	+0.05
US M20	1.00	+0.05

LIBOR RATES

3 month	5.25%
6 month	5.50%
9 month	5.75%
12 month	6.00%
15 month	6.25%
18 month	6.50%
21 month	6.75%
24 month	7.00%
27 month	7.25%
30 month	7.50%
33 month	7.75%
36 month	8.00%

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

US GDP	1.00	+0.05
US PPI	1.00	+0.05
US CPI	1.00	+0.05
US M2	1.00	+0.05
US M3	1.00	+0.05
US M4	1.00	+0.05
US M5	1.00	+0.05
US M6	1.00	+0.05
US M7	1.00	+0.05
US M8	1.00	+0.05
US M9	1.00	+0.05
US M10	1.00	+0.05
US M11	1.00	+0.05
US M12	1.00	+0.05
US M13	1.00	+0.05
US M14	1.00	+0.05
US M15	1.00	+0.05
US M16	1.00	+0.05
US M17	1.00	+0.05
US M18	1.00	+0.05
US M19	1.00	+0.05
US M20	1.00	+0.05

US commodities

Gold (OZ)	380.00	+0.20
Silver (OZ)	10.00	+0.10
Copper (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Aluminum (OZ)	0.50	+0.02
Natural Gas (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Crude Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heating Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Gasoline (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Propane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Butane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Decane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Undecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Dodecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tridecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tetradecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Eicosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heneicosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Dotriacontane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tritriacontane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tetracontane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentacosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexacosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptacosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octacosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonacosane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
triacontane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05

London metal prices

Gold (OZ)	380.00	+0.20
Silver (OZ)	10.00	+0.10
Copper (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Aluminum (OZ)	0.50	+0.02
Natural Gas (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Crude Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heating Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Gasoline (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Propane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Butane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Decane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Undecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Dodecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tridecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Tetradecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonadecane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
triacontane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Company	Price	Change	Company	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05	Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05

NEW YORK

Bank Leumi	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ADR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi BDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi CDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi DDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi EDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi FDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi GDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi HDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi IDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi JDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi KDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi LDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi MDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi NDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ODR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi PDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi QDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi RDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi SDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi TDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi UDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi VDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi WDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi XDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi YDR	1.00	+0.05
Bank Leumi ZDR	1.00	+0.05

US commodities

Gold (OZ)	380.00	+0.20
Silver (OZ)	10.00	+0.10
Copper (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Aluminum (OZ)	0.50	+0.02
Natural Gas (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Crude Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heating Oil (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Gasoline (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Propane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Butane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Pentane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Hexane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Heptane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Octane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Nonane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05
Decane (OZ)	1.00	+0.05

Everton's manager gets the boot

LONDON (Reuters) - Mike Walker was sacked as manager of Everton on yesterday after 10 months of struggle in which the club never rose above the bottom few places in the Premier League.

Ironically his sacking comes a week after its first win of the season although it is still bottom of the table with just one win from its opening 14 league games having scored just three goals in its last eight matches.

He is the second Premier League manager to be sacked in

the last eight days following Argentine Ossi Ardiles's departure from Tottenham last Monday.

Walker's 10-month reign at Goodison Park was abruptly ended by a short statement from the club which brought to a close the shortest managerial career in the club's history.

Chairman Peter Johnson said the decision had been taken with "sincere regret" but he added: "It was decided that it would be irresponsible for the directors to let the situation continue and they be-

lieve a change to be beneficial for the club."

"Having spent 40 years in the top division, I believe all supporters will agree it is imperative that their club maintains its position."

The question of a caretaker or replacement was not mentioned by Johnson, but former boss Howard Kendall is available having recently returned from a spell managing in Greece.

Walker joined Everton from Norwich City in January and got away to a wonderful start as his

team thrashed Swindon 6-2 in his first match in charge.

But since then he has had very little to be happy about.

Everton was only minutes away from relegation last season when it trailed 2-0 to Wimbledon. A defeat would have sent it down, but it rallied to win 3-2 and owing to results elsewhere, Sheffield United went down instead.

But things have not improved this season. Everton picked up just five points from its opening 12 matches.

National basketball squad takes on Turks tonight

JOEL GORDIN

Saturday and the Spaniards next Wednesday. Both are road games.

Sherf has hinted that he will open with Doron Jamchee, Brad Leaf, Adi Gordon and Tomer Steinhilber. This shows that he's favoring speed over height. It will mean playing the Turks at their own game of fastbreaks, capitalizing on the opponents' mistakes and shooting from the outside.

Doron Sherf, who arrived here over the weekend from the University of Connecticut specially for the game, may be needed to replace Gordon at point guard or be used as a shooting guard. He has played in both positions for UConn.

Last year, Israel beat Turkey 87-81 at Izmir in the first leg. But Turkish basketball improves every

year by leaps and bounds, and the visitors cannot be underestimated. The Turkish team is based on the three clubs currently playing in the final pools of the European contest: Efes Pilsen (Club Champion), Fenerbahce (European Cup) and Ulker (Korac Cup).

Two seasons ago Efes Pilsen eliminated Hapoel Galil Elyon from the semifinals of the European Cup and Fenerbahce trounced Maccabi Rishon LeZion in the Korac Cup.

The Turks, who arrived here yesterday, claim to be in top form. Over the weekend they easily defeated Bulgaria 95-80 in a preparation game. In the absence of the injured Ofek Saraj, their two most dangerous players should be sharpshooters Volkan Aidan and Temer Ovogotz, both from Efes Pilsen.

Newcastle held to scoreless draw at Forest

LONDON (Reuters) - Premier League leader Newcastle was held to a goalless draw at Nottingham Forest on Monday as it increased its margin at the top to three points.

The match failed to live up to expectations, although Newcastle's Paul Kitson had the best scoring chance in the match.

Kitson had an open goal at his mercy in the 59th minute but side-footed the ball wide.

Forest's Stan Collymore, back after a two-game injury break, had his side's best opportunity, also in the second half, but could not convert it.

The draw left Forest level on points with third-placed Manchester United but with an inferior goal difference.

Collymore felt the draw was a fair result. "I don't think we played well at all. We played too deep," he said.

Newcastle's Belgian defender, Philippe Albert, had a fine match and said the draw was important for his side.

"After our defeat by Bilbao in the UEFA Cup and by Manchester United in the league, if we had lost again it might have affected our confidence."

Collymore's big chance came just nine minutes after Kitson wasted his. The striker tricked his way past Darren Peacock and spurted clear in the Newcastle penalty area in the 68th minute.

But with the goal at his mercy, his usually deadly right foot let him down and he swung his shot away past the far post.



SOCCER SPRINT - Newcastle's Paul Kitson (l) and Forest's Stuart Pearce race for the ball during Monday's Premier League match.

Forest had lost its last two matches with Collymore sidelined with a hamstring injury.

Kitson was presented with his open goal opportunity after Ruel Fox exploited Stuart Pearce's slip to escape down the right and send a low cross skidding in front of Mark Crossley's goal.

But Kitson skewed his shot humiliatingly wide.

Ten minutes from time, Crossley stretched to tip over Peter Beardsley's glancing header from John Beresford's free kick, and then turned round Kitson's last-

minute attempt, protecting what was a fair and honorable result between two excellent passing sides.

The clubs had managed 79 goals between them this season, but a feast of open play was blunted by superb defending, with Colin Cooper and Peacock to the fore.

Collymore's passing was one of the game's highlights. Early on he sent Dutchman Brian Roy in with a 40-yard crossfield pass. He had only Philippe Albert to beat, but though he unbalanced the Belgian, Roy curled his shot over the

Czech's crossbar.

Then, in the 33rd minute, a Collymore cross from the right caused more confusion in the visiting defense before Roy unravelled the tangle by shooting wide.

Newcastle had fewer chances, though Kitson was lively, having a ballistic 20th-minute volley cleared off the line, and Beardsley ran his socks off.

Crossley flopped onto a sizzling drive from distance by Beardsley in the 48th minute and the second half followed a similar, zippy pattern to the first.

Cowboys rout Giants



IRVING (Reuters) - The Dallas Cowboys combined a smoothly balanced attack with a rugged stifling defense to rout the New York Giants 38-10 on Monday and improve its NFL-best record to 8-1.

Emmitt Smith carried a club-record 35 times for 163 yards and two touchdowns and quarterback Troy Aikman threw for one touchdown and ran for another.

The Cowboys outgained New York 450 yards to 183 with most of the Giants' total coming after the game was out of reach. The Giants have lost six straight games after winning their first three.

Aikman was 19-for-24 for 241 yards as the Cowboys notched their sixth victory in a row.

One sad note, however, for Dallas was a knee injury suffered by wide receiver Alvin Harper who caught a 22-yard scoring pass in the second quarter. On the last play of the first half, Harper went up high for the pass, appeared to be hit before the ball arrived and went down hard on his left knee.

No penalty was called, but the incident led to a massive shoving match between players on their way to the locker room for halftime.

It is possible that Harper suffered a ligament tear and may be sidelined for the season.

Giants starting QB Dave Brown was a dismal 4-for-17 for 56 yards and was consistently harassed despite facing only three rushing linemen on most passing downs.

Brown was replaced late in the third quarter by Kent Graham who finished 9-for-14 for 98 yards including a nine-yard pass to tight end Howard Cross.

Next week Dallas faces the NFC West-leading San Francisco 49ers (7-2).

Wingate sculpture honors athletes of Holocaust

Post Sports Staff

THE International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame unveiled a bronze sculpture yesterday honoring athletes who perished in the Holocaust.

The sculpture, to be permanently installed at the Wingate Institute in Netanya, is the work of US artist Marcia Raff from Gainesville, Florida. The six-foot high piece depicts the letter *Hai*, incised into the bronze surface are six interconnecting rings, five broken and one left whole to signify both the destruction of European Jewry and the hope for the future.

The institute is presently compiling a list of athletes who died in the Holocaust and in World War II. Those whose fates are known include gymnasts Alfred and Gustav Flatow and fencers Oskar Gerde, Janos Garay, Artur Pechauer and Endre Kabos as well as world flyweight boxing champion Victor Perez who died in Auschwitz.

The ceremony, under the patronage of Yad Vashem, included remarks by director-general of the Israel Sports and Physical Education Authority Yairiv Oren, Israel Olympic Committee president Yoram Oberkovich, Yad Vashem deputy chairman Reuven Dafni, ISJHO chairman Alan Sherman and Rubin Foundation director Stephen Rubin.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Panathinaikos to sack Gallis

Nick Gallis, the idol of Greek basketball and one of Europe's best guards for a decade, will soon be sacked by his club Panathinaikos for failing to play for three weeks, a club official said yesterday. "Panathinaikos has decided to proceed with ending Nick Gallis' contract because he has abstained with no excuse from his athletic commitments," the official told Reuters.

Atlanta trades Willis to Miami

Kevin Willis' 10-year career with the Atlanta Hawks has come to an end. The Hawks traded Willis and a No. 1 draft choice to the Miami Heat on Monday for guard Steve Smith, forward Grant Long and a No. 2 draft pick.

Abdul-Jabbar nominated for Hall of Fame

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, whose skyhooks and dunks helped him become the NBA's leading career scorer, was among nine men and two women nominated yesterday for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Also nominated as players were former Boston Celtics defensive ace Tom "Satch" Sanders; Arnie Risen, who played on NBA championship teams with both Rochester and Boston; Vern Mikkelsen, one of the NBA's first power forwards with the Minneapolis Lakers of the 1950s, and Kresimir Cosic, a former Yugoslav star, nominated by the International Committee.

Gascoigne could be back next spring

England and Lazio midfielder Paul Gascoigne could be back in action next spring after undergoing a 12th operation on his damaged right leg.

Gascoigne had a metal plate removed from his leg during a 45-minute operation Monday night at London's Princess Grace Hospital. The plate had been inserted after Gascoigne shattered his tibia and fibula during training with Lazio last season.

Disgruntled Elliott leads Spurs over Nets, 105-96

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A victory and a strong personal performance should have been a cause for celebration for San Antonio Spurs forward Sean Elliott.

Despite scoring 23 points Monday night in San Antonio's 105-96 win over New Jersey, Elliott clearly wasn't happy with how his team played.

"I'm a little bit disappointed because this was an ugly win for us," Elliott said. "It was a victory, but we're definitely not satisfied or playing where we think we should be. But I guess it's a lot better than being 0-2."

High expectations led to early

disappointment for the Spurs, who squandered a 17-point halftime lead in a season-opening loss to Golden State Friday night.

The Spurs saw the Nets (0-3) whittle a 20-point deficit to five with 38 seconds left before coming away with their first victory of the season.

"I think what this team needs to do is relax," Spurs coach Bob Hill said. "We're putting a lot of pressure on ourselves. A win is a win, but some of these guys think they've got to play a perfect game."

David Robinson and Chuck Person added 18 points apiece as the Spurs handed New Jersey and rookie coach Butch Beard his third straight loss.

Robinson, in his sixth season, reached the 10,000-point mark with a spinning bank shot with 2:31 left in the first quarter.

Robinson struggled through a 4-for-13 shooting night, but led San Antonio with 19 rebounds, six assists and four blocked shots.

Person made a difference offensively, hitting four 3-point baskets, including three in the third quarter. His last 3-pointer gave San Antonio its biggest lead at 83-63 with 2:13 left in the third.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	2	0	1.000	-
New York	1	0	1.000	-
Orlando	1	1	.500	1
Charlotte	0	2	.000	2
Miami	0	2	.000	2
New Jersey	0	3	.000	2.5
Philadelphia	0	3	.000	2.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	2	0	1.000	-
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	-
Cleveland	1	0	1.000	-
Chicago	2	1	.667	.5
Detroit	1	1	.500	1
Charlotte	0	2	.000	2
Atlanta	0	3	.000	2.5

Cold shooting continued to plague the Nets, who are last among NBA teams in field goal percentage. New Jersey hit 34.4 percent from the field in Monday's game, missing its first 12 shots.

MONDAY'S RESULTS:
Chicago 98, Philadelphia 83
San Antonio 105, New Jersey 96
Utah 104, Atlanta 86

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	2	0	1.000	-
Dallas	2	0	1.000	-
Utah	1	1	.500	.5
Denver	1	1	.500	.5
San Antonio	1	1	.500	1
Minnesota	0	2	.000	2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Golden State	2	0	1.000	-
Portland	2	0	1.000	-
Sacramento	1	1	.500	.5
Seattle	1	1	.500	.5
L.A. Lakers	1	1	.500	1
Phoenix	1	1	.500	1
L.A. Clippers	0	2	.000	2

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Fired workers fear Histadrut won't pay their pension

MICHAEL YUDELMAN and EVELYN GORDON

THE Histadrut workers' union yesterday sent the Histadrut leadership a letter demanding a bank guarantee that the Histadrut will keep its agreement to pay budgetary pensions to workers who are being laid off.

The workers fear that because Histadrut income will be severely reduced once the National Health Insurance law goes into effect, the labor federation might not be able to pay budgetary pensions.

The workers involved are men over age 57 and women over age 52, who are on the dismissal list or who volunteer to retire. These workers are being given the choice of either taking out their pension accumulation in a lump sum, as part of their severance payment, or to accept a much smaller severance payment and enter a budgetary pension program.

The latter choice would mean that the Histadrut itself pays them a pension until the retirement age of 65 for men and 60 for women, when the pension funds will begin paying them.

The Histadrut headquarters union had hoped that the offer of a budgetary pension might entice employees who are not on the current dismissal list of 265 to take early retirement, thus saving the jobs of some who are on the list.

However, the fear that a budgetary pension might not be paid without that incentive. It might also lead older workers already on the list to take out the enlarged severance payment, which would cost the Histadrut much more.

On January 1, when the health insurance law goes into effect, the Histadrut's income is expected to drop by 35% to 70%.

The Histadrut's present annual budget is NIS 670 million, but once it stops getting the membership fees for Kupat Holim Cholim, the budget is expected to drop to between NIS 200m. to NIS 400m.

Meanwhile, Histadrut Secretary-General Haim

Ramon told the Knesset State Control Committee that some 84% of the people the Histadrut is planning to fire are earning more than NIS 4,000 a month, and that almost one-quarter of them are earning more than NIS 10,000 a month.

Ramon was replying to charges that the Histadrut targeted its weakest employees in its recent round of firings. In fact, he said, only 16% of those fired earned less than NIS 4,000 a month.

The firings are necessary, Ramon added, if the Histadrut is to come out from under NIS 1.2 billion of debts.

Ramon also said that only 15% of the Histadrut's budget has been going to the trade unions department, even though this is supposed to be the heart of the organization's activity. Given this, he said, it is no wonder that only about 50% of private-sector workers are members of Histadrut unions.

Ramon also responded to charges by MK Shaul Yahalom (NRP) that the Histadrut had improperly transferred NIS 1.5 million from the Histadrut pension funds - already suffering from huge actuarial deficits - to the organization's social welfare division.

Ramon said this money was being used to hire an actuary for the funds and to deal with complaints from the public relating to the funds - both, he said, legitimate uses of the funds' money.

The Labor Council Secretaries Union yesterday launched a public campaign against Ramon's plan to dismiss hundreds of Histadrut workers.

Union chairman Pinni Kabbalo said that the campaign is to protest Ramon's "anti-worker tactics," which he said set a bad example to other employers in the economy.

The labor councils intend to collect 100,000 signatures on a petition addressed to Ramon, demanding that he resign if he does not defend workers' interests.

Histadrut looking for young, inexpensive legal advisers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

IN the midst of a wave of dismissals, the Histadrut is seeking to hire some 50 legal advisers.

For the past three weekends, the Histadrut has been anonymously publishing ads saying "a large public institution" is looking for "energetic legal advisers." The telephone number for applicants is 6921610, the office of Yaron Kedar, the 29-year-old legal adviser who Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon brought in when he entered office in May.

Those calling this number are told that "the public institution" is seeking 50 young lawyers to be employed in labor councils all over the country and advise and represent workers on matters pertaining to trade unions.

Histadrut sources believe these lawyers are destined to replace the experienced, veteran legal advisers presently employed by the Histadrut, who will subsequently be fired.

Some of the lawyers who applied have already been sent to work in the veteran lawyers' offices in order to learn the job and gain experience.

Histadrut sources said yesterday that by getting cheap services and court representation by new and inexperienced legal advisers, the Histadrut is in fact obtaining inferior representation for its workers and trade unions, "which shows what the real purpose of all this is."

Official Histadrut sources denied that new people from Ramon's list - will be employed by personal contract in place of the Histadrut workers which Ramon is now in the process of firing. At this stage Ramon and his men have appointed some 50 of their own people to Histadrut positions, all of them on personal contracts, which the Histadrut's trade union section is dead set against.

200 being added to foreign service

Some 200 diplomats will be added to the foreign service in the next year to deal with the expected heavy demand for embassy staff in the Moslem and Arab world, officials said yesterday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek said 60 recruits were being brought in this year and another 140 next year.

Livnat: Rabin must answer parliamentary questions

EVELYN GORDON

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin should be forced to answer the numerous parliamentary questions he is ignoring, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition, filed by MK Limor Livnat (Likud), also asks the court to order Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss (Labor) to use his authority to force Rabin to answer these questions.

Knesset rules state that a minister must answer a parliamentary question within 21 days of receiving it, unless he asks the speaker for an extension.

According to the petition, Rabin had failed to answer 112 questions within the specified time limit. He also failed to request an extension on them. Seventy-four of these questions were directed at him in his role as interior minister, nine in his role as religious affairs minister, 15 in his role as defense minister and 14 in his role as prime minister.

Answers to some of these questions are as much as three, four or five hundred days overdue, the petition said.

Though Rabin has answered some parliamentary questions, the petition said, the large number of unanswered questions indicates that he is systematically ignoring his obligation. This is not, however, an anti-opposition tactic; he has ignored questions from coalition and opposition MKs alike, the petition noted.

And though Weiss has sent letters to Rabin asking him to fulfill his obligation, the speaker has not exercised his legal authority to set dates for the answers without consulting Rabin.

The petition stressed that the parliamentary question is one of the most important tools by which the Knesset supervises the executive branch.



Former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek receives the Honorary Citizen of Jerusalem award last night from Mayor Ehud Olmert at a gala gathering at the Jerusalem Theater. Kollek, 83, joined the small group of leading figures - including Chaim Weizmann and David Ben-Gurion - who have been named honorary citizens of the city. (Isaac Harari)

Likud calls no-confidence over rising poverty

DAN IZENBERG

THE Likud yesterday called for a no-confidence vote against the government in response to the latest National Insurance Institute report showing a 5 percent increase in the number of people living below the poverty line.

"The circle of poverty and distress is increasing because of government policy," said MK David Levy in submitting the motion, which will be debated in the plenum next Monday. Levy charged that the government was funneling billions of shekels to institutions with connections to the Labor Party instead of to the poorer population.

Meanwhile, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir told the plenum the problem of poverty could not be solved simply by raising the welfare payments of those living below the poverty line.

Speaking in reply to motions

by nine MKs, Namir said the ministries of housing and education should also play a part in the fight against poverty. She urged preferential educational conditions for the poor in terms of teachers, classroom hours, meals, enrichment courses, hikes, music and sport. She also urged that the poor be supplied with proper housing.

"Without these two basic conditions, there will be no solution for the population living below the poverty line," said Namir. "Increasing welfare payments is an additional [step] but does not provide a remedy."

Namir stressed that the marginal increase in the number of poor people and children was lower in 1993 than the previous

year because the erosion in welfare payments and the minimum wage had been halted.

In addition to a plan inaugurated last year to boost 50,000 families over the poverty line, her ministry has drafted a supplementary plan to help out an additional 11,340 families at a cost of NIS 161 million, said Namir.

She rejected reported claims that the NII had doctored the figures released on Monday in order to portray a rosier picture than was actually the case. "Nothing could be more unjust," said Namir. "It is a grave attempt to cast aspersions on the efforts of devoted people who work hard to present an accurate picture of the dimensions of poverty each year," said Namir.

Yitzhak Levy (NRP) said the government's handling of the poverty problem can only be termed a success when the number of poor people begins to decline in real terms. "That means that the government has failed in this area," he added.

Tanar Gozansky (DFPE) said that based on the NII figures, half of all the Arab children in Israel lived below the poverty line, a ratio twice as high as among the Jewish population. "We must give special preference to the poor children, particularly the Arabs among them," said Gozansky.

David Magen (Likud) said the Likud had called for a vote of no confidence because "we don't see the government doing anything substantive to deal with the increasing distress."

Bill to enable Yi'ud to join gov't passes Knesset committee stage

EVELYN GORDON

ANOTHER hurdle was crossed yesterday in enabling Yi'ud to join the government, when in a revote the Knesset Law Committee approved a bill which would make this possible.

The bill, by Eli Dayan and Salim Tarif (Labor), was passed by an 8-7 vote. It will now go to the plenum for its first reading.

The bill was a reaction to a High Court of Justice ruling this summer that members of breakaway factions cannot become ministers or deputy ministers. The legislation states that while breakaway MKs cannot hold either of these posts, members of

breakaway factions recognized by the Knesset may.

Both coalition and opposition MKs support the bill in principle. However, Eliezer Zandberg (Tsomet) had proposed an amendment saying it should not go into effect until the next Knesset. He also proposed an amendment to forbid breakaway factions from joining the government unless one-third of the original party's governing body supported the secession.

On Monday, the opposition succeeded in passing both

amendments, after renegade Shas MK Yosef Azran voted with the opposition and one Labor MK failed to show up for the vote. Later that day, however, Shas took Azran off the committee and replaced him with Moshe Maiya (who then allowed himself to be replaced by Shlomo Benizri for yesterday's revote). This, combined with a full mobilization of the coalition, enabled the committee to defeat Zandberg's amendments in a revote.

Both coalition and opposition brought in several members from outside the committee to replace absent committee members.

Government postpones vote on bill to formalize increase of military service

DAN IZENBERG

THE government yesterday postponed the vote on first reading of a bill formally increasing compulsory and reserve military service after seeing that it lacked a majority to approve the legislation.

One of the most outspoken opponents of the proposal was Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen, who presented data indicating that 30 percent of reservists perform 80% of all the annual reserve duty.

The bill officially increases the term of compulsory military service for men aged 18 to 26 from 30 to 36 months and the number of reserve days of service for men up to age 48 from 31 to 41.

Soldiers in the regular army have been serving 36 months for the past 22 years. Until now, however, they performed the last six months according to a special writ issued by the defense minister.

The bill limits the total number

of days a soldier can be called up to reserve duty to 84 days per year. Other key provisions of the law include:

- The age of compulsory reserve duty will be lowered from 54 to 51 years of age.
- Men drafted into the army between the ages of 27 and 39 will serve 24 months of compulsory service; men between 40 and 51 years of age will serve up to 27 days of reserve duty.
- Women up to 34 years of age will be liable for up to 27 days of reserve duty.

Cohen said he had conducted a study showing that 30% of the reserve soldiers performed 80% of reserve duty in a year. Only 50% of the male adult population which is qualified to serve in the reserves actually does so. He added

that only 4.9% of reservists served more than 30 days a year.

Cohen said the burden of duty on a fraction of the combat soldiers was "beyond logic." He justified members of paratroop unit who recently demonstrated in front of the Knesset, saying they have been called up to serve 107 days in 18 months.

Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) said the number of reserve service days should be cut and the standing army expanded into "as big an army as possible." Eitan said all 18-year-olds should be drafted and assigned an appropriate task. The law should assert that anyone who does not perform some kind of national service may not vote for the Knesset or stand for election, he added.

Ovadia Eli (Likud) said compulsory military service should be limited to 32 months as recommended in the Shafir report.

Shas continues battle to remove Azran from Knesset

DAN IZENBERG

SHAS has refused renegade Yosef Azran's offer of a compromise and is insisting that the Labor Party support its demand to remove him from his position as deputy Knesset Speaker, Shas faction chairman Shlomo Benizri said yesterday.

"We told them we support the government in every committee vote and we expect them to do the same for us," Benizri told The Jerusalem Post. "Otherwise, we will feel free to vote as we chose on the budget and no-confidence motions."

Labor faction leaders are concerned that Shas will refuse to join the government unless the coalition MKs support its bid to change the Knesset House rules. Today, the House rules state that a deputy speaker cannot be replaced in the middle of the parliamentary term.

Several coalition MKs have indicated they will not support Shas's demand; however, it is not clear whether they realized the affair could jeopardize the plans to expand the government.

Benizri made it clear Shas would do everything in its power to force Azran to leave parliament and return his mandate to the party.

The demand to remove Azran from his post as deputy speaker is part of a broad assault. On Monday, Shas stripped him of his membership in the Knesset Law and State Control committees.

An aide to Azran described Shas's latest demand to remove him from the post of deputy speaker as a "personal vendetta."

In the meantime, the coalition no longer enjoys a majority in the Knesset praeidium. The eight-person body headed by Speaker Shevah Weiss now has four coalition MKs and four from the opposition, including Azran and Yi'ud MK Esther Salmovitz.

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